

# Mrs Thatcher stands firm on steel strike

The Government is still refusing to be drawn into negotiations for settling the steel strike although Mrs Margaret Thatcher and ministers yesterday had talks with executives of the BSC and leaders of the two main steel unions.

## Cabinet refuses to divert funds

By Paul Routledge  
Labour Editor

The Government last night put responsibility for ending the state steel strike firmly back in the hands of union leaders and the British Steel Corporation through the brokerage of the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service.

Acas officials were in touch with both sides after cordial but unproductive talks between the two main steel unions and Mrs Margaret Thatcher, flanked by her employment and industry ministers, in Downing Street yesterday.

It was made plain to the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation and the British Union of Blastfurnacemen that the Cabinet would not make any extra money available to the industry, or sanction any change of use in the £450m public funding for 1980-81 so that it could be used to finance a wage settlement.

After a further session of talks between the Prime Minister and top executives of British Steel, Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, said the meetings had been useful in showing the limits within which the industry had to work.

"I do not think any of us ought to expect dramatic moves in the next day or two", he added. "There must be a period of quiet consideration and discussion between Acas and the other parties."

But while the conciliation service is likely to reopen its peace initiative, calm is not the keynote of events in the next few days. The umbrella Trade Union Co-ordinating Committee, which brings together all the striking steel unions, meets this morning to consider the rebuff it has received at the hands of ministers and BSC alike over pay and plant closures.

Tomorrow the TUC General Council will be recommended

# Iran says Russians are 'serious danger'

Tehran, Jan 21.—Mr Sadeq Qotbzadeh, the Iranian Foreign Minister, said last night that Soviet troops in Afghanistan were 30 kilometres (18 miles) from the Iranian frontier and posing a serious danger to Iran's south-eastern province of Sistan and Baluchistan.

He said after a regular meeting of the ruling Revolutionary Council: "We cannot accept this danger." Iran could not remain silent in the face of a threat to its frontier region.

Mr Qotbzadeh said he was concerned that the Soviet Union might one day invoke its treaty of 1921 with Iran, whereby Moscow has the right to intervene militarily if Iran is to be used as a base of military operations against it.

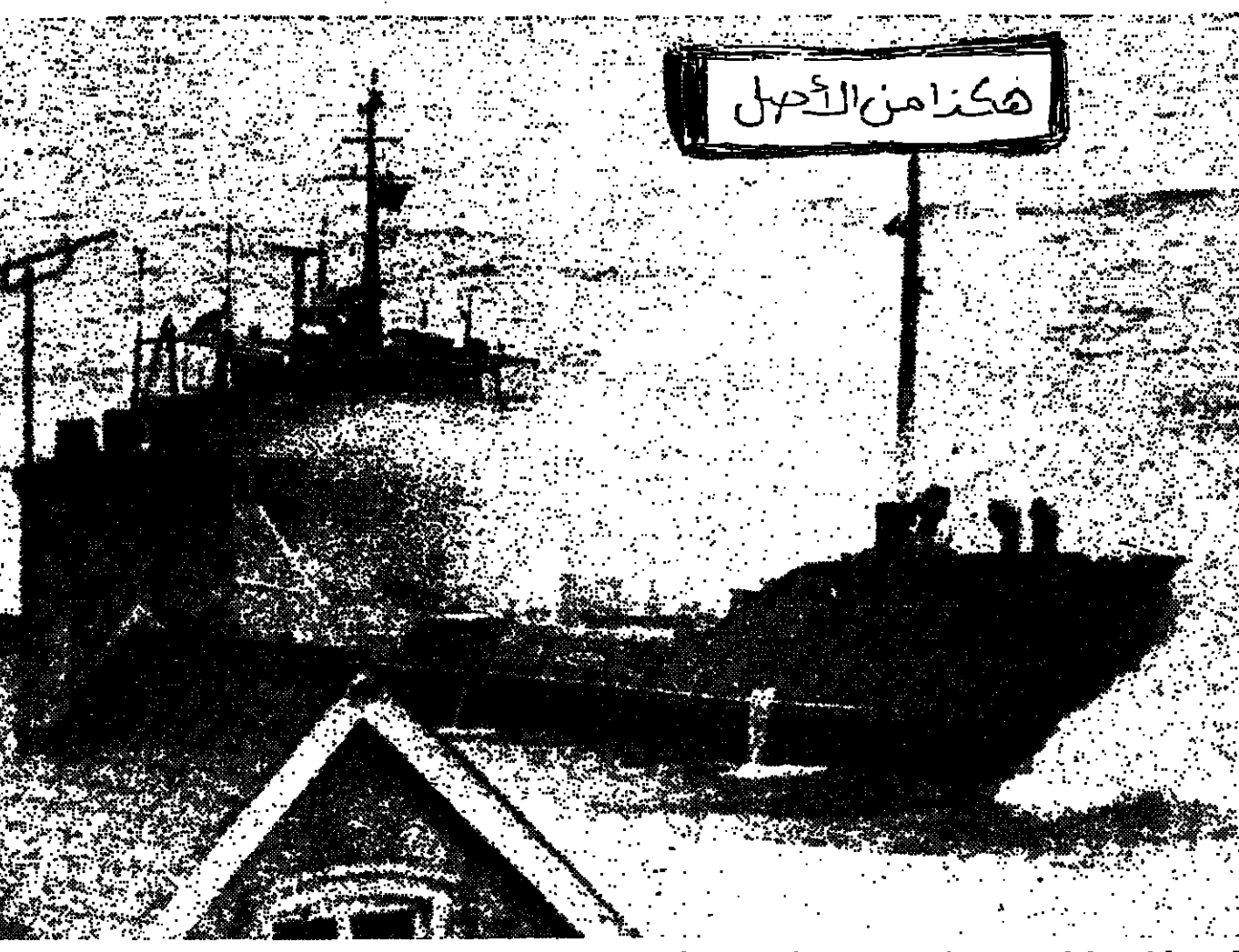
Last November, the provisional Government of Iran revoked the treaty, but Mr Qotbzadeh said the Soviet Union had not followed suit.

However, the Foreign Minister rejected a recent American offer to make common cause against the Soviet threat from Afghanistan.

Mr Abolhassan Banisadr, the Economy and Finance Minister, said last night that the Iranian Government urgently needs guarantees of no further military intervention by Moscow in other countries who are taking part in the Moscow Olympic Games because the Russians were "killing our Muslim brothers" in neighbouring Afghanistan, called for an "alliance of nations threatened by the superpowers" and threatened to use force to prevent the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

Base ruled out: Oman will not let the United States, Britain or any other foreign power establish a base on its territory, Mr Qais al-Zawawi, the Omani Foreign Minister said today in Riyadh.

He said after a brief visit to Saudi Arabia that the states of the Gulf region had the chance to agree over safeguarding their security against intervention by any state, "great or small". His talks with Prince Saud al-Faisal, his Saudi counterpart, centred on the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, and the coordination of positions at the Islamic conference to open in Pakistan on Saturday.—Reuter and Agency France-Press.



**Tanker beached:** A 300-ton tanker carrying liquid petroleum gas, with waves lashing over it, is beached by storms near Larne, Northern Ireland's main ferry port, yesterday. Police closed the coast road and evacuated cottages nearby.

A fire officer was put on board the Danish tanker, the Regitze Tholstrup, by helicopter to check the cargo for leakage and possible risk of explosion as huge waves drove the vessel farther on to the beach.

The beaching came after a night of severe weather. Snow and rain, with gale-force winds swept many parts of Britain.

In Northern Ireland a man died when a tree fell on his car as he drove to work on the Ballyligg Road, Magheramorne, co Antrim.

A Liverpool motorist was killed in the west of Scotland, where winds were gusting at between 60 and 70 mph and snow falling heavily.

A Spanish trawler, the Isla de Graznula, reported she was sinking in 70 mph winds 200 miles south-west of the Scilly Isles. An RAF Nimrod found the ship after a search last night, and reported the trawler had managed to restart her engines.

The man, whom police believe to be Alan Gregson, aged 41, of Acragate Court, Grange Lane, Liverpool, was driving north between Carlisle and Glasgow on the A74.

The heaviest snowfall of the winter blocked roads on the Yorkshire Wolds and North York moors. A wagon carrying more than 100 pigs was stranded in 4ft drifts between Birdsall and Leavening near Malton.

Forecast, page 2

# Scientists hope to create live mammoth

From Michael Binyon  
Moscow, Jan 21

A living mammoth, identical to those that roamed the world thousands of years ago, may be recreated from the single cell of a frozen carcass found recently in Siberia, if Soviet experiments are successful.

A member of the Soviet Academy of Sciences recently told a newspaper that living cells from the almost perfectly preserved body of a mammoth that died 10,000 years ago could theoretically be reproduced in a laboratory and cultured to produce a living creature.

Dr V. Mikhelson, a research scientist at the Institute of Cytology, said the process had already been successfully tested with frogs.

Two years ago a baby mammoth nicknamed Dima—since displayed at an exhibition in London last year—was found in a frozen marsh in Siberia, and Soviet scientists discovered cells that were in almost perfect condition in its kidney and liver.

Dr Mikhelson said: "As soon as we get a living cell out of any part of the mammoth body we shall fuse it together in a test tube with the sex cell of a female Indian elephant whose nucleus will first be irradiated by X-ray."

This cell will then be implanted in the organism of the female elephant. And under favourable conditions after 18 to 20 months, the normal pregnancy period, the world's first "artificial" mammoth will be born.

Dr Mikhelson said that further investigations jointly with American scientists at Wayne State University in Michigan had found well preserved blood cells in Dima's body.

By the time Dr Mikhelson arrived in Magadan, in the Soviet Far East, most of Dima's organs had already been put in formalin. But he was lucky to get hold of some still-frozen tissue which was taken to Leningrad and preserved in a laboratory.

The first attempts to culture living cells from this tissue failed, but the scientists then tried the tissues from another mammoth found in 1978.

At one point it seemed as though a culture had begun to grow in the test tube. But, Dr Mikhelson said, a mistake was made and the experiment ruined.

He has now begun with a third female mammoth found at a different location. Henceforth every group of scientists investigating newly-discovered mammoths in the permafrost will include a cytologist. "We have to get the tissues before they are unfrozen," he explained. "Sooner or later we shall succeed."

A fellow academician told the newspaper *Trud* that the principles of biology, genetics and cytology (study of cells) did not rule out the possibility of such experiments. The problem was to get laboratory conditions right for the culture of the cells.

Cloning, the reproduction of cells from a single living cell, has long been known to scientists in the West.

But western experts in Moscow said experiments in this field had to far been limited to simpler organisms such as bacteria and unicellular structures, and it was doubtful whether such an ambitious project as recreating an extinct mammoth was yet possible.

# Optimism over Tito condition

From Dossa Trevisan  
Belgrade, Jan 21

President Tito's general condition was said to be good today after the amputation of his left leg yesterday.

This brought a measure of optimism but the President, who is 87, is not out of danger yet as the period regarded as critical is said to cover three to four days. For a man of President Tito's age, the uncertainty may last another three to four weeks.

His stamina and remarkable power of recovery gave rise to cautious optimism that he would withstand the shock of amputation.

The question that is being asked, therefore, is whether President Tito will be able to resume an active life. In recent years he has shown no signs of slackening pace as he has travelled widely in the country, almost continuously. This must obviously stop.

If he recovers he might exert his influence and let the institutions provided for his succession get on with the job of governing Yugoslavia.

This would test the efficiency of a complicated system in his lifetime, when the presence of his personality would continue to provide the kind of powerful influence that he has exerted over 35 years.

The succession, arranged on the basis of an annual rotation of both the state and party presidencies, is meant to create a leadership of equals. Nevertheless, some officials wield greater personal authority of their own. Dr Vladimir Bakarić, the Croatian leader, who is one of the four officials, with a seat in both the state and party presidencies, is certainly one of them.

Soviet and American views, page 8

How vulnerable is Yugoslavia? page 19

# Arming Pakistan gets top priority in US

From David Cross  
Washington, Jan 21

President Carter announced today that in this election year he will be limiting major new domestic and foreign policy programmes to a critical few, including initiatives to respond to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

In a 75-page message to Congress outlining his past legislative accomplishments and his priorities for the coming months, the President said his first order of business will be the enactment of a military and economic aid package for Pakistan to bolster its security.

On the domestic front, he said he wanted Congress to concentrate on approving pending energy legislation; a new youth employment programme; measures to improve nuclear waste management and to reorganize the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in the wake of the accident at the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant last spring; and new revenue sharing plans for cities and states.

Mr Carter's message ruled out an immediate tax-cut for individuals and business, while inflation continued and while there was no sign of a deep recession. The Administration's top priority remained a reduction in the budget deficit, although it would consider tax cuts at a later date if the economic situation deteriorated sharply.

Mr Carter sent his message to Capitol Hill earlier than normal this year, so that he can concentrate on his foreign policy goals when he speaks to a joint session of Congress in his State of the Union address on Wednesday evening. In past years, the written message had traditionally been published at the same time as the address.

Two-thirds of the message deals with domestic policy and one third with various aspects of foreign policy. A senior White House official explained that the foreign policy section was designed to provide the background context for the State of the Union address.

In a section on South Asia, Mr Carter says that the "overwhelming challenge" in this

# Peace rally mother found dead in Ulster

From Christopher Thomas  
Belfast

Mrs Anne Maguire, aged 44, whose personal tragedy with the death of three of her four children led to spontaneous demonstrations for peace in Ulster, and the formation of the Peace Movement in 1976, was found dead at her home in Stockmans Lane, Belfast, yesterday. A carving knife was found beside the body, and police said foul play was not suspected.

In August, 1976, her children, Joanne, Andrew and John, died when they were hit by a car driven by a man shot and injured while being chased by security forces. The driver died and Mrs Maguire was seriously injured.

A spontaneous and emotional rally was held four days later on the site of the accident, in Finaghy Road North, while Mrs Maguire was recovering in hospital. The Peace Movement, led by Mrs Maguire's sister, Miss Mairead Corrigan and Mrs Betty Williams, sprang from the rally.

Marches were held in the autumn and winter of 1976 in the Catholic Falls and Protestant Shankill areas as well as in Londonderry and towns throughout Ulster and the rest of Britain.

In 1977 the Maguires, with their surviving child, Mark, then aged seven, emigrated to Auckland, New Zealand. Mr Jackie Maguire said at the time: "I think people have seen the futility of violence. What has happened to my family can happen to a lot of families."

But the family could not settle down in New Zealand and seven months later, in January, they returned to Belfast.

Mr Maguire was traced by police at his work yesterday and told of his wife's death. The alarm had been raised at 4.10 pm by a neighbour, Mark, and their other child, Joanne, who was named after one of the dead children, were understood to have been in the house at the time.

# Gold price slips with US profit-taking

Gold continued to climb on the bullion markets in London yesterday when its price was fixed at a record \$850 an ounce but profit-taking in New York made the price slip back to \$825, to close \$10 down on Friday's closing price. Dealers reported less hectic activity in the metal but in Chicago the futures market touched \$1,000 an ounce for the first time. The price remained buoyant on continuing political uncertainty in East-West relations. But in New York further speculation was added to the already volatile market when a weekend report in the *New York Times* suggested that the Russians had found a commercially sound method of converting lead into gold. Although the technology exists to make the conversion possible, United States scientists are sceptical that it can be done commercially. Page 17

# Cairo 'delays air link to Israel'

A Tel Aviv newspaper has reported that General Taha Maghoub, the official in charge of normalization at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, has said that the national airline, Egyptair, would not open an office in Israel nor begin flights to Tel Aviv next week as previously arranged. Page 8

# New grade for Civil Service

Under a recruitment scheme prepared by the Civil Service Department, a new grade will be created and young officials who have demonstrated their capacity while serving in the middle ranks of the service will be given a greater chance of obtaining top Whitehall jobs. Page 4

# Crucial primary vote in Iowa

The people of Iowa were voting last night for the men they want the Democratic and Republican Parties to adopt as presidential candidates. In this important first primary the towns were hoping to hold the line against further price increases and to keep the respect of the world for the United States. Page 8

# £300,000 gift 'a valid trust'

A gift of £300,000 to the library of the Taylor Institution at Oxford University by the late Dr Theodore Esterman was a valid charitable trust, Mr Justice Slade ruled in the High Court. Page 5

# Rome Parliament 'out of control'

Both the Christian Democrats and the Communists have issued warnings that the institutional failure of the Italian Parliament is striking at the heart of the country's democracy and that Parliament is becoming uncontrollable. Page 7

# Labour Party inquiry: men's

Labour Party inquiry: men's fashion by Prudence Glynn. Sport, pages 11, 12. Rugby Union: England restore Colclough against France: Football—Norman Fox previews League Cup semi-finals: Cricket—The problems of Geoffrey Boycott: Tennis: Rex Bellamy in Philadelphia for the United States professional indoor championships. Business, News, pages 17-22.

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# Thais to release British nurse jailed over drugs

Miss Rita Nightingale, the British nurse who was jailed by a Bangkok court for drug smuggling, is to be released this week after serving three years of her 20-year sentence.

The decision to free Miss Nightingale, aged 25, was announced yesterday by the Thai Embassy in London.

The release comes after an appeal for clemency which she made to the King of Thailand late last year. Miss Nightingale always maintained that she was innocent.

A spokesman for the Thai Embassy said: "A decision has been made and she has received clemency from the King."

The decision was welcomed by Mrs Barbara Castle, former MP for Miss Nightingale's home town of Blackburn, and now an MP in the European Parliament. She had helped to lead a massive campaign in Blackburn to free Miss Nightingale.

Mrs Castle paid tribute to the Thai Government for its handling of the case, and to Dr David Owen, the former Foreign Secretary in the Labour Government, who had sent a Government petition asking the Thais to show mercy.

She added: "I am convinced

# Britain 'alone in Europe' over Olympics stand

By Michael Hatfield

Britain stood alone in Europe in its attempts to get concerted action against the Moscow Olympic Games, Mr Nikolai Lunikov, the Russian Ambassador in Britain, said last night.

Mr Lunikov, who was speaking after meeting the Labour backbenchers in the Commons, also group in the deadline for the removal of Soviet forces set by President Carter was "ridiculous".

During the meeting Mr Lunikov was asked if Soviet forces would be sent to Yugoslavia if there was unrest and they were invited. He replied that the West was always trying to bury President Tito and that there was a strong friendship between Russia and Yugoslavia.

Mr Lunikov was pressed by the backbenchers about the inclusion of one or two left wingers not known for regular criticism of Soviet foreign policy, who said the invasion could severely damage détente.

The Soviet Ambassador reiterated that the troops had been invited into Afghanistan. Polls support Mr Carter, page 7

# Tax allowances to increase

One effect of last year's 17.2 per cent rise in the Retail Price Index will be to increase taxpayers' personal allowances in the coming fiscal year under the Rooker-Wise terms of the Budget.

For a married man, the allowance should mean a tax reduction of £1.80 a week; for a single person, £1.15; for a married pensioner £2.45 and for a single pensioner £1.54.

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STEEL STRIKE

# Coalfield is run down in readiness for South Wales pit strike

From Tim Jones  
Bridgend

South Wales miners have started running down the coalfield in preparation for an all-out strike in March, their area president, Mr Emyl Williams, said yesterday.

In a bitter attack on the British Steel Corporation, Mr Williams said his men would "rather eat dirt" than accept the steel cut proposals, which could destroy the region's coalfield.

Mr Williams said that for the past week miners had been refusing to move any steel products within the pits. That included for supporting underground roadways and vital for the extension of coal faces.

Speaking after a delegate conference of the South Wales miners, Mr Williams said the BSC proposals for a slumped down operation at Llanwern and Port Talbot meant that the Corporation would buy only 600,000 tonnes of coking coal from miners in the area.

"This is equivalent to the output from one mine and means that 21 pits out of 36 could close," Mr Williams said.

"That is just not on."

Unless the TUC take positive action against the corporation's plans, Mr Williams said, the miners would be in the forefront of an all-out strike in March. His union was supporting the call by the Wales TUC for a two-year delay in the closure plans while an inquiry was held into the way the steel industry was run.

During the delegate conference speaker after speaker claimed that Wales would be turned into an industrial wasteland, with more than 50,000 redundancies, if the corporation and the Government were "allowed to get away with" their plans to de-industrialize the principality.

Plans for a one-day national strike in Wales next Monday, the first since 1926, were completed yesterday by leaders of 20 unions at a meeting of the Wales TUC.

Mr George Wright, general secretary of the Wales TUC, said more than 200,000 workers would join the strike in protest against the run-down of the coal and steel industries. He said: "As things stand more than 50,000 men will be out of work in eight months. To ask for time is the most moderate, responsible and humane demand we have ever made."

The Wales TUC has called in a team of management consultants to work out a blueprint for the reconstruction of industry in Wales.

The Government, Mr Wright said, should accede to their call for a two-year delay so that both sides of industry could work out a socially responsible and economically viable base for the future.

Secondary picketing was still threatening the future of the Metal Box factory in Neath yesterday after trade unionists, in defiance of national instructions, continued to prevent the movement of materials in and out of the factory.

The plant, which produces 30 per cent of the cans tops used by the British food industry, employs 2,200 people and has been given a 15-month extension to enable it to achieve profitability. But in spite of delegations from the factory to national union leaders, the local strike committee has decided to continue its blockade.

Mr Brian Milford, chairman of the works council at the factory, said: "We have been told by the strike committee that they will review the position on Wednesday."



Mr Scargill (right) marching with Mr Keith Jones, Rotherham ISCT leader.

## Mr Sirs is heckled by strikers

From Our Correspondent Sheffield

Striking steelworkers told their union leader, Mr William Sirs, at a rally in Sheffield yesterday that they would settle for nothing less than a 20 per cent increase.

Mr Sirs, general secretary of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, arrived in Sheffield 90 minutes late after talks with the Prime Minister in London.

He was given a lukewarm reception by the 1,500 steelworkers who had marched through the city centre for a rally at the city hall, also attended by Mr Arthur Scargill, the Yorkshire miners' leader, and local MPs.

Mr Sirs was heckled when, without specifying any figures, he told the meeting that he looked forward to getting round the table with the steel employers to bring the three-week-old strike to an honourable end.

A number of steelworkers shouted: "Twenty per cent and nothing less." Mr Sirs replied: "It is not good shouting to me."

I know full well what the position is."

He told them the talks with Mrs Margaret Thatcher and her Cabinet colleagues would have little direct impact and added: "The only impact that you will have now is the action you are taking."

The only thing the corporation understands is direct action. We are being set upon and singled out. Here in Sheffield and Rotherham our position might be very strong, but do not think for one moment it is the same everywhere else in the country."

Mr Scargill raised a rapturous response when he told the strikers: "You are invincible."

## Private sector attacks 'callousness'

By Peter Hill  
Industrial Editor

Steel producers yesterday attacked plans by the steelworkers' union to call out on strike 20,000 of its members employed by independent companies, and appealed to the union to reconsider its threat.

The plan, announced last week by the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation and likely to be confirmed at an executive council meeting this week, was described as "callous and cynical" by Mr John Paterson, president of the British Independent Steel Producers Association.

The possibility of legal proceedings being instituted is being investigated by the association.

With a turnover of £1,500m, the one hundred or so BISPA companies account for about a quarter of the United Kingdom steel market and employ 60,000 workers.

If there is no move to resolve the impasse between the steel unions and the British Steel Corporation which led to the strike, now entering its fourth week, the private sector ISCT members will be called out from next Sunday, halting all steel production in the United Kingdom.

Mr Paterson said there was strong evidence among private sector ISCT employees that they wanted no part in the

strike. The companies, he said, were not in dispute with their employees and the ISCT had admitted that any strike call would be in breach of established procedure agreements.

He reaffirmed earlier warnings that if the workers were forced to join the strike some companies would close down permanently and jobs would be lost.

The plan, he continued, was a political move by representatives of BSC employees to exploit for their own purposes the loyalty of their independent colleagues. It would undermine the good relations, constructed over years, between companies and their employees.

"Our member companies are aware of the dilemma their employees face. Divided loyalties, the prospect of lost jobs and future bitterness stare them in the face. Management is determined to provide facilities for work to continue for as long as possible, but the resolution of this dilemma lies in the hands of the unions."

"Times are hard enough in the European steel industry without these misguided, irresponsible pressures on the United Kingdom independent steel producers."

Referring to a suggestion from Mr William Sirs, general secretary of the ISCT, that BISPA should lodge formal protests with the Government and BSC urging a settlement, Mr

Paterson retorted: "The union has the arrogance to suggest that we protest to the Government. Our protest is to the union against its shortsightedness and lack of regard for the welfare of our employees. Let it reconsider immediately."

About half the independent companies are already suffering disruption through legal proceedings, he said. He said that the ISCT should not load or unload steel destined for private sector works.

BISPA has not ruled out the possibility of instituting legal proceedings, Mr Alec Mortimer, its director-general, said. The organization was awaiting legal opinion on the possibility of taking out injunctions.

We are not involved in this dispute. The private sector has been one of the success stories in the UK and is one of the few parts of the steel industry in Europe which have managed to remain profitable during some dreadful conditions. This action by the ISCT does not do any good."

Later Mr Mortimer was among a wide cross section of industrial leaders who attended a meeting called by the Confederation of British Industry to discuss the latest developments and the impact the strike is having on steel-using industries.

HOME NEWS

## Form of agenda agreed for Ulster conference

From Christopher Thomas Belfast

The prospects for the Government's constitutional conference on Northern Ireland improved sharply last night when Roman Catholics and loyalists agreed on the shape of an agenda.

For the first time the conference will today begin substantive talks on devolution of powers to the province. A strict clampdown on official intervention was imposed as delegates left Stormont last night at the end of a three-hour session, the fourth since the conference opened earlier this month.

There is clearly a determination by the Rev Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionists, and Mr John Hume, who heads the Social Democratic and Labour Party, to make the conference work. Mr Paisley said emphatically: "We will stay to the bitter end."

After a troubled beginning all participating parties now seem set to keep talking until some agreement can be reached. The impression is that the conference could sit until the spring.

Much of the tension has been taken out of it because the Roman Catholic leaders have agreed to share the main thrust of the arguments over the emotive "Irish question" with Mr Humphrey Atkins, Secretary of State for

Northern Ireland. For their part the Democratic Unionists appear willing not to press too hard on their central demand for tougher security measures.

Mr Paisley, who is the only Catholic spokesman at the talks because of the boycott by the Official Unionists, last night accepted an invitation from the Rev Robert Bradford, official Unionist MP for Belfast, South, for later party talks to settle their differences.

Mr James Moynihan, the Official Unionist leader, apparently was not directly involved in the invitation, but Mr Paisley said: "I would like officers of both parties to be in attendance but I am prepared to meet Mr Moynihan man to man if that is what he wants. After all, we are all members of the same Unionist family."

The main differences between the parties, Mr Paisley asserted, was that the Democratic Unionists favoured a fully devolved parliament and government, whereas the Official Unionists appeared to be more integrationist. The influence of Mr Enoch Powell, MP for Down, South, cleared again: Francis McGil, aged 24, who last November was found not guilty of the murder of Lord Mountbatten of Burma, was cleared yesterday by a Dublin court of being a member of the outlawed IRA. He had denied the charge.

## TUC not totally opposed to pay policy

By Michael Hatfield  
Political Reporter

The prospect of a resurrected prices and incomes policy under a new Labour government as part of an alternative economic strategy to that of the Conservative administration was discussed between shadow ministers and trade union leaders yesterday.

While nothing like firm decisions were taken, shadow ministers were privately pleased that there had not been an automatic reaction by the trade unionists, especially as the TUC had voted down an incomes policy in the last year of the Labour government.

Though there was opposition at the meeting of the TUC Labour Party last night, the view expressed by Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, was that there was no rigid view on the matter. Much would depend on the economic climate and the context in which such a policy was introduced.

"We are not totally against an incomes policy," sometimes it is right and sometimes it is wrong," he informed Mr James Callaghan, leader of the Opposition, and other shadow ministers at the meeting.

While it was being stated that too much should not be read into the views expressed at this stage, it appeared to be a significant step forward in the Opposition in its search for an alternative economic strategy before the next general election.

Though the government and the TUC fell out over the issue in October 1978, the consequences for Mr Callaghan and his colleagues, it seems that such delicate issues can be re-stated without bitterness.

Opposition to an incomes policy came first from Mr Eric Heffer, a left-wing member of the party national executive committee. He clashed with Mr Denis Healey, who initially raised the issue as part of his review of the economic situation.

## Shop steward who refused to strike loses union job

By Clifford Webb  
Midlands Industrial Correspondent

A British Leyland shop steward who refused to join a strike called in to protest at the dismissal of Mr Derek Robinson, the shop stewards' leader, has had his credentials withdrawn by his union and has been fined £10.

But last night Mr Eddie Howard, aged 31, a machine shop steward at Leamington, where Mr Robinson is the convenor, claimed that he was only carrying out the wishes of the men he represented. He said they had held a meeting and voted to stay at work.

"I have been a member of the Iron and General Workers' Union since I was 16 and have always gone on strike when required in the past. But we voted not to go out over Derek Robinson. We don't support him."

At that reason, he said, he felt fully justified in crossing picket lines thrown around the plant within hours of Mr Robinson's dismissal on November 19.

The union's action against Mr Howard is surprising in view of the confusion that followed the decision of the union's West Midlands regional finance and general purposes committee to declare the strike official.

When Mr Robinson's own union, the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, refused to make the strike official, the TCUW ordered the West Midlands to withdraw official recognition of the strike.

The AUEW inquiry into the dismissal of Mr Robinson is now in its final stages, but it is still not clear when the findings will be announced.

It is understood that the volume of evidence taken from union and management witnesses is proving very difficult to sift and collate. As a result the report of the three-man inquiry team could still be weeks away. The AUEW has said that it will call an official strike if the inquiry reports that Mr Robinson was wrongfully dismissed.

## Shell drivers to vote on 22% pay offer

By Donald MacIntyre  
Labour Reporter

Shop stewards representing 2,000 Shell tanker drivers and staff at oil terminals decided yesterday to put a pay offer worth about 22 per cent over the coming year to a vote by the membership.

The decision came on the eve of today's report back by British Petroleum shop stewards on how the company's 2,000 oil and petrol delivery staff have voted on a broadly similar pay offer. Early indications are that BP workers were moving towards acceptance.

Texaco and Esso drivers have accepted similar offers.

## Meeting aimed at averting water strike

Unions and management in the water industry are to meet on Monday in an attempt to avert the threatened national water strike.

The basis of the talks, at union insistence, is the water workers' claim that they are paid on average £10 a week less than employees in the gas and electricity industries. It was the refusal by the employers to negotiate on the findings of a joint comparability study that led last month to the breakdown of pay talks.

The employers' side is due to meet tomorrow to formulate its response to the strike threat.

## Biggest blast furnace faces ruin if stoppage prolonged

From Alan Hamikson  
Redcar

The largest blast furnace in Europe puffs white wisps lazily into the sharp winter air. Her fires have been banked up, like a kitchen stove for a January night, in the hope that she will still function when the steel strike is over.

Managers at British Steel Corporation's divisional headquarters at Redcar, on Teesside, whose landscaped offices gaze directly on to the smoking monster, are concerned for the safety of this priceless plant if the shutdown is much prolonged.

No furnace of this size has been banked up before for a long period, and no one is certain what the effect will be. The furnace, one of the most expensive single pieces of equipment in the entire British Steel complex, was commissioned only last October, and is designed to produce 10,000 tonnes of pigiron a day. Before Christmas it had been worked up to 8,000 tonnes a day, and was going well.

But now it is beginning to cool from the outside, and a long period of inactivity will mean a collapse of the refractory brick lining, and a solid mass of iron that will need to be chipped out piece by piece.

"If it reaches that stage we will have to commission this

furnace all over again; it will be a very long, and expensive process and will leave us short of iron for the steel mills of Teesside," a BSC spokesman said.

The furnace is part of the new £450m Redcar ironmaking complex, which also includes a bank of new coke ovens of the most advanced design in the world. The ovens, which were started up last year, have been giving trouble because of their revolutionary design. They, too, are in danger of extensive damage from a long period of inactivity.

The National Union of Blastfurnacemen is providing a 24-hour shift on both furnace and ovens, but BSC says the presence is insufficient to prevent possible serious long-term damage to the plant.

Redcar's iron ore terminal, opened in 1972, and recently imported its ten million tonne of ore, is used by a stranded Australian coal ship. When the strike began 10,000 tonnes of her cargo had been unloaded, but all work was stopped on January 2, with 60,000 tonnes still in her hold.

The crew remain on board, but local officials of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation are refusing to allow her unloading to proceed.

## Lone plant carries on despite pickets and drivers

From Ronald Kershaw  
Northern Industrial Correspondent, Sheffield

Probably the only British Steel Corporation plant still to be producing is the Stanton works at Ilkerton, Derbyshire, which makes spun iron pipes and concrete pipes.

The plant was functioning partly although pickets from

Corby and Wales descended on the works yesterday.

A BSC spokesman said last night: "The plant has been working because most of the unions involved are not in dispute." Production had been affected, however, because 40 lorry drivers, members of the Transport and General Workers' Union, had refused to move metal.

Some members of the National Union of Blastfurnacemen in the central melting plant had stopped work and 90 of 4,000 workers had been sent home temporarily, the spokesman said.

One of Sheffield's biggest private sector steel firms, Arthur Lee, laid off 330 workers from its plant at Meadow Hill, but refused to move metal.

the refusal of workers to load lorries.

The South Yorkshire strike committee sent more men to Birmingham to picket British Leyland works and to Dover to prevent steel landings.

Mr Edward Thorne, secretary of the strike committee, described yesterday's demonstration as "a tremendous success".

## Petition demands hardship payments at Corby

From Frances Gibb  
Corby

Striking steel workers at Corby are to present a petition to their union organizers today which they say bears the signatures of 700 members demanding strike or hardship payments. The members of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation say they are not against the strike but against the union's policy not to pay strike benefits.

Mr Thomas Barrowman, the strike committee welfare officer, estimates that of 8,000 striking members, 2,000 are single or married couples with dependants who do not receive supplementary benefits.

One of the strikers concerned about the lack of hardship money, Mr John McKean, aged 22, a shift helper, said he had only 71p left in the bank and was faced with rent and full board of £23.50 a week.

"I have been told that a single man on strike cannot receive any benefit and that if I am still out by February 15 I can come back again," he said.

The union's hardship fund stands at £300. Of that, £100 has been invested in £5 food vouchers which are being kept by in case of emergencies. The strike is nearing the end of its third week and members who have not been paid since December 21 are feeling the pinch.

driver at Corby's tubeworks, one of the organizers of the petition, said: "We have been told that the union's money is tied up in investment and cannot be touched. We want to know if it is tied up and for whom."

The Confederation which has assets of £11m, has decided against making strike payments because its investments are not liquid and because it would result in social security benefits being withdrawn from other members.

Mr John Cowling, the national executive member of the Confederation at Corby, said he had agreed to meet the strikers organizing the petition. He said it was far easier for other unions, such as the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, which is giving its striking members £9 a week to pay strike money.

"We have to finance flying pickets all over the place. If we gave them £10 a week that would be £1m. We would be broke inside four weeks."

After a mass meeting on Sunday of the strike workers at Corby the strike organizers decided to step up the flying pickets. Two coachloads were sent yesterday to work at Cranham, two coaches to docks at King's Lynn and two coaches to Melton Mowbray.

Pickets also went to join nearly 300 steel workers from Wales and Teesside in picketing the Stanton works at Ilkerton, Derbyshire.

## Attempt made to stop supply of North Sea piping

From Ronald Faux  
Edinburgh

Pickets have been sent to prevent the movement of steel at stockholders' yards in Aberdeen that supply piping and other material for the North Sea oil industry, organizers of the steel strike in Scotland said yesterday.

The unions were also investigating steel shipments at Dundee Docks and they reached agreement with shop stewards at the fabrication yards at Nigg on the Cromarty Firth and Ardersier, near Inverness, that any new steel entering the yards would not be handled.

Mr Pat Shevlin, a strike official, said: "If we can stop North Sea development significantly it will make people down South think again about their attitude towards this strike."

Picketing in West Scotland was increased yesterday after an agreement by 1,800 steel craftsmen to support the action. That has allowed strike organizers to build up their pickets at steel stockholders' yards to about 700 men.

## Stewards vote narrowly to join stoppage

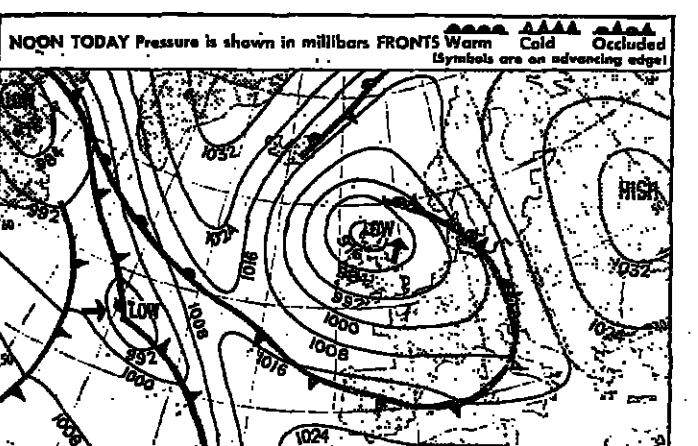
By Our Midlands Industrial Correspondent

About 100 shop stewards representing 3,000 private-sector members of the ISCT in the West Midlands met at Dudley Steel, Willenhall, yesterday to vote to obey their union's call to join the strike from Sunday.

The voting figures were not revealed but men leaving the meeting said there was a substantial number against the strike. They said that Mr Roy Bishop, the union's top Midlands official, was given a noisy hearing.

Almost all the 3,000 are employed in rolling mills using steel from a number of sources, including BSC. Some 3,000 West Midlands private-sector steel workers are already laid off because of the strike.

## Weather forecast and recordings



Today

Sun rises: 7.54 am  
Sun sets: 4.31 pm  
Moon rises: 10.22 am  
Moon sets: 10.44 pm

First quarter: January 24  
Lighting up: 5.01 pm to 7.22 am

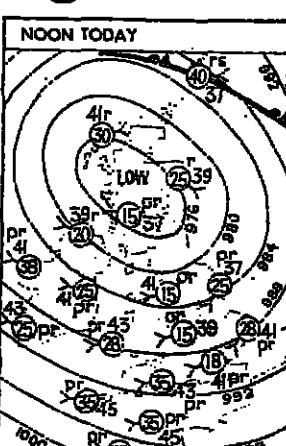
High water: London Bridge 4.42 am, 7.3m; 5.15 pm, 7.3m. Avonmouth 12.5m, 1.47 am, 10.47 pm, 12.5m. Dover, 1.47 am, 10.47 pm, 12.5m. Hull, 9.21 am, 7.3m; 9.25 pm, 7.5m. Liverpool 2.08 am, 9.2m; 2.27 pm, 9.5m. 1m=3.28ft.

A deep depression will be slow moving over S Scotland.

Forecast for 6 am to midnight: London, SE, central S and N England, East Anglia, Midlands, Channel Islands: Bright intervals and misty showers, heavy at times; wind W, strong to gale; max temp 5°C (41°F).

SW England, S Wales: Bright or sunny intervals, heavy showers, snow on hills, severe falls in exposed areas; wind W, gale; max temp 5°C or 6°C (41 to 43°F).

WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY: MIDLANDS: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun; sl, sleet; sn, snow; th, thunder.



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### Pretty Pair

This pair of Royal Crown Derby blue-ground vases, painted by Desire Lerooy in 1898 was sold at Sotheby's Belgravia for £1,200.

Our sales of English 19th and 20th century ceramics include porcelain and earthenware from the major English factories such as Royal Worcester, Minchin, Coalport, Derby, Wedgwood and Copeland and also feature parian and Doulton figures. If you have a single item or a collection which you think might be of value, we are still accepting property for inclusion in our specialised early summer sale.

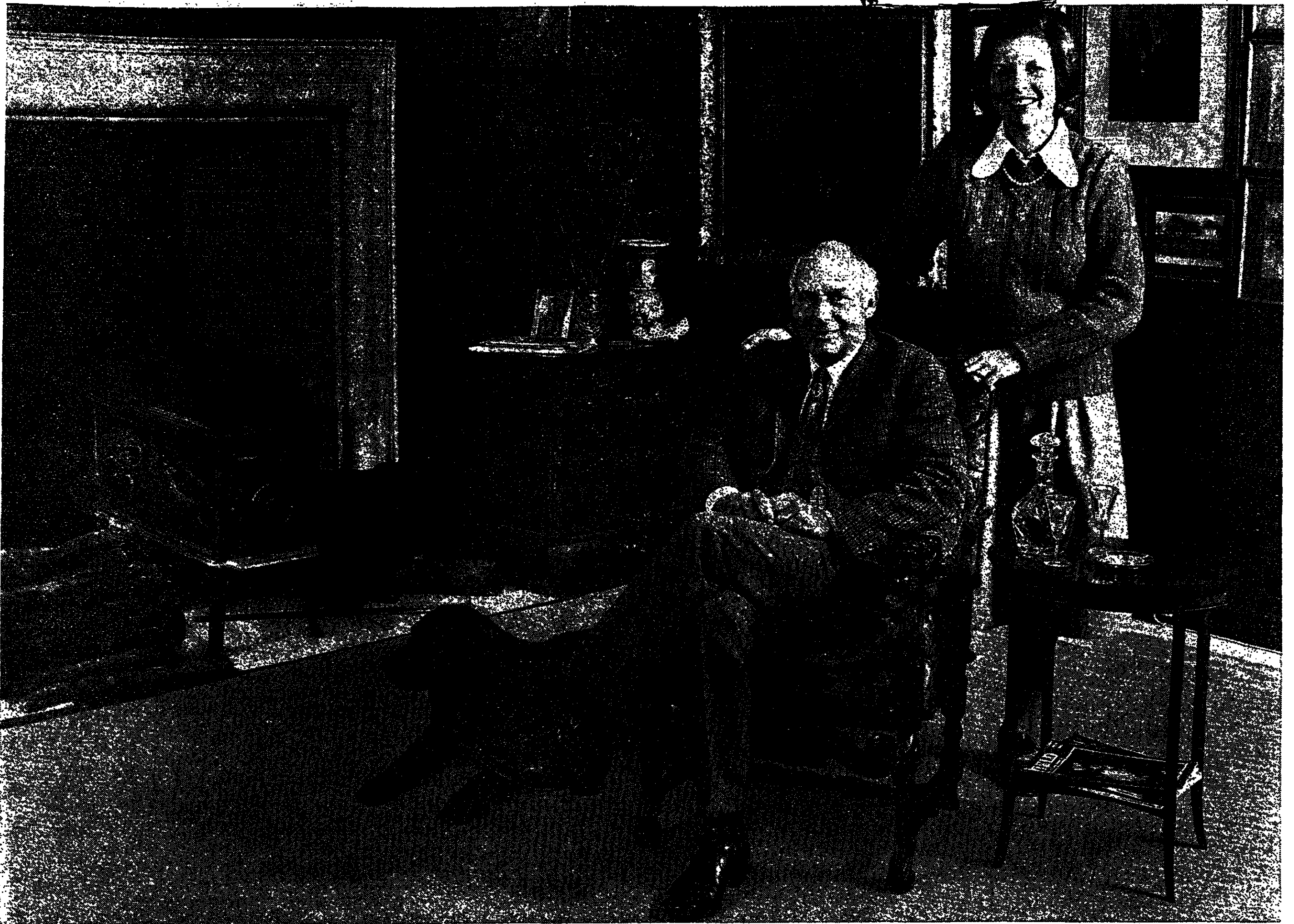
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# “Our stately home would be an iceberg without the economy and efficiency of our Jøtul woodstoves”

Charles Clive-Ponsonby-Fane Esq., Brympton d'Evercy, Somerset.

A handsome range of Jøtul Norwegian stoves is available in Britain. Backed by Norcem, one of Norway's leading industrial names, Jøtul woodburning stoves are helping more and more people in Britain to make economic sense of the traditionally costly British winter.

Charles and Judy Clive-Ponsonby-Fane, for example, installed a Jøtul 118 in their large kitchen during the winter of 1977. They now have a stove in their sitting room and another in the Estate Office. Mr. Clive-Ponsonby-Fane pointed out that Brympton d'Evercy had been heated by an old boiler of Titanic proportions that annually consumed more than £1,500 of fuel. Likewise he says “Our open fires were useless. The heat went up the chimney and the smoke came into the rooms! Were it not for the economy and efficiency of the Jøtul woodstove normal life in our family home would no longer be possible”.

Mr. & Mrs. Ridley, Corbridge, Northumberland



## Everyone has room for Jøtul

You don't need a stately home to enjoy the benefits of Jøtul. In fact, the range is extensive enough to suit virtually all types of home and size of room. Mr. and Mrs. Ridley have considerably less space to heat than Brympton d'Evercy, but here again the introduction of a Jøtul stove has proved a sensational fuel-cost shrinker. Mr. Ridley, who runs a large beef and sheep farm at Corbridge, Northumberland, says, “You've got to admit that in home fire technology, the Scandinavians have us beat. My Jøtul No. 1 stove burns for hours, and it utilises every scrap of fuel profitably.”

## Energy Conservation – the heart of the Jøtul system

Jøtul stoves come in a range of impressive traditional and futuristic designs, but the essential feature of every stove is maximum heat output combined with minimum energy wastage. At the same time the Jøtul range offers you a wide choice of technical options. Most Jøtul stoves are free-standing to ensure that a maximum amount of heat is directed into the room, and not up the chimney. Many are designed so that they can be easily switched from being an open fire to a closed-stove. These are tightly constructed of high quality cast iron to give fine control and extended burning time with prodigious heat output if required.

Quite apart from the economic heat they deliver, Jøtul stoves need little attention. You won't have to keep refilling your Jøtul stove every five minutes, and you can be sure that because of its ultra-robust construction it will continue to deliver abundant and cheap warmth for decades.

## Time to think of Jøtul?

Jøtul is here to keep Britain's wood fires burning at unbeatable cost, an aim which is fully supported by Jøtul technology. Before the winter gets any worse, why not get the whole Jøtul picture? Write for an illustrated colour brochure and details of our U.K.-wide distribution network.



The Jøtul Number 1.



The Jøtul Number 6.

Combined-open fire and slow combustion stoves with metal doors.

# JØTUL

OF NORWAY

NORCEM UK Limited, Old Bath Road,  
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HOME NEWS

# Middle rankers in Civil Service to be given better chance of getting top Whitehall posts

By Peter Hennessy

Promising young officials from the middle ranks of the Civil Service are to be given a greater chance of obtaining top Whitehall jobs under a new recruitment scheme prepared by the Civil Service Department.

"High-fliers" will continue to be recruited directly from university and polytechnic graduates, but an equal number will be found from executive officers already in the Civil Service.

A new grade of Higher Executive Officer Development (HEOD) will be created to merge the two streams of recruits. After two or three years in "testing" jobs, HEODs will be eligible for promotion to principal, the gateway grade for the higher Civil Service.

The plan represents a compromise between the egalitarian demands of the middle management union, the Society of Civil and Public Servants, which has demanded that all university recruits should begin their careers as executive officers, and Whitehall's principal establishment officers, who were determined to sustain a flow of the finest university-trained minds into the Civil Service and believed that an entry restricted to the executive officer grade would deter such people.

In 1977-78, the last uninterrupted year of recruitment, 186 candidates were admitted as administration trainees (ATs), the present entry grade for

potential "high-fliers". Of those, 129 were directly recruited graduates and 57 drawn from executive officer grades.

Under the new scheme the number recruited in a single year is unlikely to exceed 100 or to sink below 50, an equal proportion being taken from external and internal candidates.

If the two unions principally concerned, the society and the Association of First Division Civil Servants, representing the higher grades, agree the plan could be implemented during the 1981 recruiting season.

The HEOD scheme was proposed by Sir Kenneth Clucas, Permanent Secretary to the Department of Trade and the former First Civil Service Commissioner responsible for recruitment.

He challenged the findings of a review committee which in 1978 recommended an executive officer development scheme to find and groom candidates for rapid promotion. Only a small proportion of those chosen for development training would have been successful.

Sir Kenneth circulated a forceful paper arguing that such a scheme would foster a failure mentality and would be wasteful of resources in an era of expenditure restraint. One of the alternatives he suggested was the HEOD scheme.

Whitehall now believes success will be built into the system. Internal candidates for HEOD will be drawn from those National Staff Side.

who are to be promoted anyway from executive officer to higher executive officer.

Those chosen for possible promotion to HEOD will then attend the Civil Service Selection Board to undergo a battery of written, oral and cognitive tests similar to that undertaken by direct graduate recruits. Such direct entrants will still be known as administration trainees and will remain two years in the grade before promotion to HEOD.

It remains an open question whether the society will accept the new scheme, as it is committed to the complete disappearance of the AT grade. But the new arrangement does represent, in the society's view, a considerable improvement on the old, which it regarded as irredeemably elitist.

Mr George Marshall, general secretary of the Association of First Division Civil Servants, said of the new scheme yesterday: "This is a much better idea. As long as we have a smallish external stream we are quite happy, and we want proper use made of in-service people."

A meeting will be held in the Old Admiralty Building next week to discuss details of the HEOD scheme. Mr Jonathan Chalkham and Mr Alan Wisbey will attend for the Civil Service Department. The unions will be represented by Mr Marshall, Mr Campbell Christie, of the society, and Mr Peter Jones, of the Whitley Council



A "refugee" fleeing a battle scene being helped across a bridge during a Royal Engineers' demonstration of techniques and equipment at Hawley, Hampshire, yesterday.

## More aid for inner cities urged

By Our Planning Reporter

A renewed, specific commitment by the Government to discriminate financially in favour of inner cities for at least a decade was called for last night by Mr Peter Shore, MP for Tower Hamlets, Stepney and Poplar, and former Labour Secretary of State for the Environment.

Mr Shore was delivering the third annual Thomas Cubitt Lecture at the Royal Society of Arts, London. His theme was urban decay and, as he is now Opposition spokesman on foreign affairs, it afforded a rare example of a former Cabinet minister returning to the subject of particular personal interest.

In an implicit criticism of the present Government's decision to establish urban development corporations in the London and Merseyside docklands, he said that such corporations should be set up only with the agreement of local authorities. The London docklands boroughs and Merseyside County Council strongly oppose the decision.

Without the confidence that the Government has shown in its commitment to the small buds of hope and achievement which had begun to appear in the inner cities would wither and die, he said.

"We shall see the acceleration of poverty, trans and ethnic ghettos; physical and moral decay; alienation and violence; and the growth and multiplication of problems that will plague not only us but generations to come."

## 'Sex for sale' inquiry ordered at open prison

By Peter Evans

Home Affairs Correspondent

The Home Office has asked Derbyshire police to investigate allegations that sex, drugs and drinks were for sale as part of a racket at Sudbury open prison, Derbyshire.

The story of graft emerged through solicitors acting for one of the prisoners, who helped his wife and a private detective she had engaged to operate in trapping the alleged syndicate.

Mr Matthew Parris, Conservative MP for Derbyshire West, in whose constituency the prison is, yesterday called for a wide-ranging inquiry into the affairs at the prison.

He said: "For many years the prison officers at Sudbury have complained to my predecessor and to myself about low manning levels and about hardened criminals being allowed into an open prison. The allegations must be investigated, but the investigation should go wider and deeper than that."

Men alleged to have taken part in the racket, a prisoner and prison officer, were named in the *Daily Mirror* yesterday, which claimed the racket could never have operated without the help of certain prison officers.

Privileges on offer included, the newspaper said, sex with a prostitute for £200; a night outside with the wife at £100; telephone calls out for £10 each; extra visits from the wife at £10 a time; marijuana at £5 a roll up; pornographic books for £25; and, and luxury food for £25.

The *Daily Mirror* said last night that it would cooperate

## GLC attitude to Stansted could bring chaos to road links

By Michael Bailey

Transport Correspondent

The Greater London Council appear to be at odds over Stansted airport in a way that threatens traffic chaos in north-east London.

While the Government predicts that 50 million passengers a year will be using Stansted by the year 2000 and the Department of Transport expects up to 15,000 a day to move by road between the airport and central London, the GLC is still pursuing a policy of restricting traffic into London and building roads of limited capacity to enforce it.

Decisions are due to be taken by the GLC this week on links into central London from where the M11 from Stansted ends in the outer north-east suburbs, and the indications are that solutions chosen will be inadequate for airport traffic.

The critical one is a proposed link road from the M11 at Redbridge to Hackney, where a joint working party of GLC,

## NUT action closes schools

By Diana Geddes

Education Correspondent

A strike by teachers in Warwickshire due to begin today may be averted after a provisional agreement reached yesterday by the National Union of Teachers and the Warwickshire Education Authority. But a half-day strike planned by NUT members in Ealing, west London, is expected to go ahead.

Meanwhile, thousands of schoolchildren in Avon and Trafford continue to be sent home for part of the day because of the refusal by some NUT members in Avon, and by the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers in Trafford, to teach a new timetable introduced in the middle of the school year.

A half-day strike by NUT members is due to take place in Nottingham and south Nottinghamshire tomorrow in protest against the suspension of a primary school teacher who refused to teach 40 nursery children in one class.

Warwickshire NUT members had threatened to go on strike from today in protest against the proposed docking of teachers' pay involved in a half-day strike on November 14, and in support of a headmaster who was suspended and reprimanded after refusing to inform his staff that the half-day strike would constitute a breach of contract.

Mr Charles Holbrook, head of Milby Middle School, in Nuneaton, was reinstated three days after the half-day strike, which had been held in protest against the cuthack of supply teachers in the county, but the reprimand remained.

The provisional agreement reached yesterday by the Warwickshire authority and NUT national, regional and local officials has to be ratified by the Milby school governors today. Details of the agreement have not yet been released, but it is known that it covers the main points of contention, namely the docking of salaries, the reprimanding of Mr Holbrook, and future provision of supply teachers.

In Ealing thousands of children in the authority's 16 secondary schools may have to be sent home today for part of the afternoon when NUT members strike in protest against the proposed sale of a comprehensive school to the Church of England. The church has no secondary school in the area.

## Arrested liner's owners sued for more than £1m

From Our Correspondent

Liverpool

The Wallasey-based Cruise Club has lodged a claim for more than £1 million damages for breach of contract against the cruise liner, La Perla, in detention at Alexandra Dock, Liverpool, a club official said last night.

The vessel was arrested at the instigation of the club. The owners, the Athens-based Perkos Cruises, are suing the club for £345,000.

The owners have allowed the club to put a consultant engineer on board to check for the alleged defects. The club is sending out letters to 2,000 people who had booked on three subsequent cruises, next month telling them they have been cancelled and that their fares, ranging from £200 to £750, would be refunded.

The ship had been almost inundated by the International Transport Workers' Federation.

## Police corruption inquiry team gets new adviser

By Stewart Tandler

Crime Reporter

An indication that Operation Countryman, the inquiry into serious allegations of police corruption in London, is likely to continue for some time was given yesterday, with the announcement of a new adviser to the investigation team.

In a joint statement Mr Patrick Kavanaugh, Deputy Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, and Mr Peter Marshall, Commissioner of the City of London Police, announced that Mr Peter Matthews, Chief Constable of Surrey, is to become an adviser to Mr Leonard Burr, head of Countryman and Assistant Chief Constable of Dorset.

He is taking over from Mr Arthur Hambleton, Mr Burr's chief adviser, who has ended his month-long assignment. Since Countryman was formed in 1978 Mr Hambleton has been involved in

## Brunel exhibition plan for old Bristol station

By John Young

Planning Reporter

Plans have been announced to adapt the original Temple Meads railway station in Bristol, which was designed by Isambard Kingdom Brunel, to house a permanent exhibition of works by him and other eminent Victorian engineers and architects.

The station, built in 1840, is the earliest large railway terminal to have survived unaltered and is listed Grade I. It adjoins the present station and was declared redundant in the 1960s.

The British Rail Property Board has agreed to lease the building for the next year at a peppercorn rent to the Brunel Engineering Centre Trust and has undertaken to help with fund-raising. If the funds are forthcoming a permanent lease will be negotiated.

Mr Anthony Byrne, honorary secretary of the trust, said yesterday that it planned to use the entire site, including the vaults and the train shed, now temporarily used as a car park.

## Cars stolen to sell abroad for cannabis, Crown says

From Arthur Osman

Birmingham

The activities of what was described as a skilful, well organized and highly successful international gang of car thieves and drug smugglers were outlined at Birmingham Crown Court yesterday.

The countries in which they operated included Holland, France, Italy, Greece, Turkey and some in the Middle East, it was alleged, and expensive cars were stolen to sell for heroin and cannabis resin and cannabis oil.

Mr Brian Escott, QC, for the prosecution, told of a heavily defended cannabis farm at Basbek, Lebanon; of the skills of a man called "The Magician" who he said, "could make things disappear in this case large quantities of the into a car boot with a false floor, and liquid cannabis oil into the washbone of a car's suspension system."

Four men and a woman before the court were: Keith Anthony Leonard, aged 25, of Brandwood Park Road, 23, of Heath, Birmingham; Michael Foy, aged 29, of Moorland Mews, Islington, London; Colin John Trehearne, aged 28, of Heath, Pendennis, Penrhys, Mid Glamorgan; and Robert John Ashton, aged 24, and his wife Lynswe Ann Ashton, aged 23, of Ynyswen Road, Ynyswen, Mid Glamorgan.

All five denied conspiring together and with others to assist in the commission of offences against the laws of countries on the prohibition and regulation of the import and export of cannabis resin and oil. Mr Leonard, Mr Foy and Mr Trehearne deny an additional conspiracy charge, and Mr Leonard and Mr Foy deny conspiracy over the possession of UK passports.

Mr Cox said that the first three defendants were members of an international gang which included British, Irish, American, Dutch, Canadian, German and Spanish people.

By using forged documents and passports they stole expensive cars in Europe and drove them to the Middle East "with astonishing ease and frequency". The cars were exchanged for money and drugs, which were shipped to Europe for sale there and in the United States and Canada. There was no evidence that any came to the United Kingdom.

Mr Cox said that although the gang had no leader as such, there was a principal organizer, an American named Samuel George from Idaho, in the words of one defendant: "Sam is an evil, no-good villain", who was sought by several police forces throughout the world for drug smuggling and car thefts.

On December 22, 1978, Mr George was found dead in a garage in Paris and had false English identity documents with him. Before his death he had run the Branderij hotel, in Amsterdam, with his wife, Francine. That was the gang's headquarters.

## Gondola of Ruskin's day plies Lake Coniston again

That remarkable example of Victorian elegance and ingenuity, the Stream Yacht Gondola, is due to slip back into her home waters of Lake Coniston on March 22, having been restored to her original glory from a half-wrecked, semi-sunken condition in just over three years.

SY Gondola, 85ft long and originally licensed to 225 passengers, was launched in 1859 for the Furness Railway Company, which was then opening up the attractions of the Lake District to the nation at large.

The vessel, which was built in sections in Liverpool and transported to the lake by rail and horse and cart, was so named because her hull shape, and still does, resemble the general lines of the traditional Venetian craft. Instead of a lustrous gilded as power plant, however, she had a V-twin cylinder 16hp steam engine, said to have been almost inundated by the waves at full revolutions, which ignominiously ended its days driving a sawmill at Ulverston.

## Regional report

### John Chartres Coniston

She plied the four-mile-long lake for 80 years, acting not only as a pleasure boat but a well patronized ferry service between various village jetties. She served through five reigns and in one year, 1906, carried 22,445 passengers.

When the Second World War brought an end to her daily voyages, which had been mentioned with affection by such chroniclers of the Lake District scene as Arthur Ransome, Thomas Carver and John Ruskin, she was first reduced to the status of houseboat and, finally, deliberately half sunk by her last owner at the southern end of the lake to protect her from vandals.

The restoration work has

been organized by the North-west region of the National Trust and an appeal committee headed by Lord Rochdale has so far raised £75,000 of the £100,000 target.

National Trust officials and others among the large community of historic steamboat enthusiasts in the Lake District refloated her in 1977 and gingerly towed her to the northern end of the lake (with axes at the ready in case she sank) and, in a heroic effort, dragged the towed craft down (with her). Preliminary restoration work then began at Coniston Hall.

One of the main tasks, the replacement of her original New Moor iron plates has been carried out at Vickers shipyard, Barrow-in-Furness, and much of what yachtsmen call "ELC" (Tender Lifting Craft) is now being applied to rebuilding her ornate saloons, of which the first-class one was the height of contemporary elegance, in blue and white decor, cushioned and carpeted in the style of Queen Victoria's royal train.

A copy of the original engine is being built by Locomotion Enterprises Ltd, of Gateshead, the small company which is earning an international reputation for its work on copies of the earliest steam locomotives and is embarking on the restoration of HMS Warrior.

Three new jetties are about to be built on the lake, a regular supply of suitable coal has been organized, a master skipper (Captain Peter Gaukroger, a former big ship merchant) has been recruited and she is due to begin scheduled services again on July 1. There will probably be three or four round-the-lake trips a day at a fare of about £150.

The final cost is likely to exceed the £100,000 first envisaged, because of inflation and unexpected snags that nearly all such ventures encounter. A first appeal is about to be launched, supported by an EP record made by a local folk group called the Bag o' Rags, extolling the virtues of a vessel which the National Trust describes as a "survivor from the grand days of elegance afloat".

## Government's £500,000 grant for farm

By Our Planning Reporter

The Government has agreed to advance £500,000 to the Nature Conservancy Council for acquisition of Scotland Lodge Farm, near Salisbury, Wiltshire, said to be one of the most important chalk downland sites in Britain.

The 1,000-acre farm, which has been managed by traditional methods, contains a variety of grasses and flowers, and is a haven for a wide range of plants and animals. It has been largely eliminated by ploughing and agricultural chemicals.

The will of the late Robert Wager gave the council an option to buy the farm at an advantageous price.

## David Bedford banned

David Bedford, aged 30, the former Olympic athlete, of Torrington Park, North Finchley, London, was fined £500 and banned from driving for a year at Highgate Magistrates' Court yesterday when he admitted driving with alcohol three times the legal limit of alcohol in his blood.

## Man in the news: Why NF chief who hoped to lift party's fortunes resigned John Tyndall, the quiet fascist leader

By Ian Bradley

John Tyndall, who on Sunday announced his resignation after more than six years as chairman of the National Front, has been a quiet and less charismatic leader of British fascism than either Sir Oswald Mosley or Mr Colin Jordan.

Although he has not become a household name in the way that Mosley and Jordan did to earlier generations, he has succeeded through a combination of rabble-raising oratory and cool organization in his aim of getting the National Front into the headlines even if he has never managed to make it look like a respectable political party.

Mr Tyndall has always made much of his desire to establish the National Front as the fourth party in British politics, dedicated to winning power through the ballot box, and he has tried to play down his own flirtation with neo-Nazi groups in the past. He has, however, remained remarkably consistent in his advocacy of nationalism, white supremacy and anti-communism.

The son of an Irish Protestant who settled in Britain in the 1920s and became a YMCA

## Trust aims to offer legal advice by phone

By Kenneth Owen

Technology Editor

Computer-based systems giving access to legal information are to be promoted by a new charitable trust, the National Law Library, which has been set up by the Law Society of England and Wales, other legal institutions and the Society for Computers and Law.

The trust was inaugurated last night at a reception at the Law Society's Hall, London. Its president is Lord Scarman.

Among the trust's main objectives are "to further the sound development, administration and knowledge of the law; to advance education therein; and to promote research... to establish and operate, or to assist, advice or provide services in connection with the establishment and operation of legal information retrieval services based on computer technology so as to improve the legal profession and to the public at large."

Specifically, it plans to run a pilot project this year in which a database of law information will be accessible to selected trial users through the public telephone network. That will be done jointly with one or more publishers or computer bureaux.

Tax law was chosen as the subject for such a subject on because it is a self-contained, important area of the law, is widely referred to by lawyers, accountants and others, is based on a broad base of material and needs frequent updating.

By tackling such a subject on that basis it is hoped that many of the practical difficulties and standards involved in legal databases generally will be exposed.

The executive arm of the trust is a wholly owned limited company, the National Law Library Ltd, whose chairman is Mr David Andrews. The Law Society of England and Wales will make an initial £60,000 grant to the trust; further support is promised from other sources. The trust's funds will be launched shortly.

## Former minister may ask for sealed papers

By Our Social Services Correspondent

Mr Alfred Morris, former Labour minister for the disabled, is considering asking Mrs Margaret Thatcher to treat him as a special case by releasing sealed papers to him on the ground that they have been referred to publicly by his successor.

The papers are the work of a team of officials appointed by Mr Morris, Labour MP for Manchester, Wythenshawe, when he was minister. His successor, Mr Reg Prentice, Minister for Social Security, referred to the papers when he told the all-party disablement group last July that the team had been disbanded.

Normal practice when governments change is for the previous administration's papers to be sealed. Former ministers can have access to the papers but can retrieve the information only by copying it down with their own hand. The papers Mr Morris wants were lengthy and detailed, as the officials had virtually completed their work on a comprehensive disability income scheme.

"It is highly unusual for an incoming minister to refer to the work of his predecessor," Mr Morris said yesterday. "The present minister has publicly referred to the work and the trust, which have been made aware of it by officials in the department."

## Two remanded on robbery charges

Two men facing charges including conspiracy and robberies involving large amounts of cash were remanded in custody for a week at West London Magistrates' Court yesterday.

They are Raymond Parkins, aged 40, a guillotine operator, of Wolesley Close, Crayford, Kent, and David Gleeson, aged 37, a director, of Ryculf Square, Blackheath, London.

مكتبات الصحف



## HOME NEWS

## BMA letting public see its code of ethics for guiding doctors

By John Roper  
Health Services Correspondent

For the first time in 125 years the code of ethics framed by the British Medical Association for the guidance of doctors is being made available to the public this week.

Dr Michael Thomas, chairman of the association's ethical committee, said yesterday that one reason was that a more educated public needed to know the rules under which the "game was played". That would give patients more confidence.

The new code recognizes in a foreword that contemporary medical ethics, while retaining some of the etiquette of an earlier age, is faced with new and ever more complex problems to which the past offers no solutions.

That is exemplified in a section headed "Ethical dilemmas", which sets out general principles about which a consensus has not been reached.

In that section the code examines reduction of service to patients, a battle for doctors because of the cuts in services forced by lack of money.

The code says that refusal by a doctor to work for patients on the ground that adequate conditions are lacking is not industrial action but the performance of duty. Such action would constitute action not against, but on behalf of, patients.

"Those who maintain that it is always unethical for a professional man to withdraw his services, which in the view of many is the only effective weapon available to him when persuasion fails, are in danger of accepting for doctors a position of subservience to their employers that would eventually preclude them from maintaining their professional standards," the code says.

The desire not to harm patients by direct action may then result in harming them by doing nothing.

The profession should require the state not to renege on its social responsibilities and the state should not require doctors to renege on their ethical responsibilities.

A dilemma that seemed likely to persist was that the two sets of responsibilities were not in direct conflict, but that the NHS are finite, the code says that if as a result of the reduction of service the overall conditions of service are required to practise in the NHS fell below a minimal level of acceptability to him, he might feel that it would be unethical to continue to advise patients in a difficult situation which was not his fault.

*Handbook of Medical Ethics* (British Medical Association, Tavistock Square, London, WC1H 9JP, £3 to non-members, £1 to members, post free).

## Gallery for Turners will adjoin the Tate

By Kenneth Gosling  
Arts Reporter

A permanent gallery to house the Turner Bequest is to be established by 1984 on a site adjoining the Tate Gallery. The Turner Foundation has made a £5m donation, Professor Alan Bowness, the gallery's director, announced yesterday.

Professor Bowness said after meeting representatives of the Turner Society that the Queen Alexandra Military Hospital site would be used.

Although the uniting of all Turner's works under one roof would be the culmination of a campaign that has lasted many years, the Turner Society wants the collection to be housed for now at Somerset House. It says the gallery might not be ready for 10 years.

The society is also concerned about maintenance and running costs of the gallery, although the Government has said that it was ready to pay in principle.

The Office of Arts and Libraries said last night: "The Government is obviously most gratified by the Clure offer. There are now a number of factors that have to be considered and these are being examined."

Turner's works are in several major museums; the Turner Society is now urging that there should be an independent board of trustees but that issue is unresolved.

The society has promised to assemble a Turner library and a collection of engravings.

The Government is understood to want all issues to be resolved as quickly as possible.

## Whitehall brief: Contingency plans for a freedom of information Act

## £30m cost of sorting defence documents

By Peter Hennessy

There are a handful of optimists who believe that eventually the Prime Minister will become converted to the cause of freedom of information either by a blatant example of maladministration or from a desire to enlist public support against a resistent Whitehall machine wedded to orthodoxies she does not share.

Should that happen, Mrs Margaret Thatcher will find a fairly advanced scheme for introducing a public right of access to government information ready prepared in departmental files. For Whitehall last year took the threat of Mr Clement Freud's new defence private member's Bill very seriously.

His Official Information Bill disappeared with the Callaghan Government.

But, before its demise the official Cabinet Committee on Open Government, GEN 146, commissioned a series of departmental studies on how the right of public access, enshrined in Mr Freud's Bill, would be implemented if it became law.

The transformation it would have wrought in Whitehall can now be gauged, thanks to an exemplary piece of open government by the Ministry of Defence, which has agreed to a request from *The Times* to be shown sections of its Freud contingency plan.

Defence is Whitehall's biggest department and its most prolific creator of paper. It has five million files in active use at any one time. Not all of them would have been liable for public inspection under the



Mr Don Pollock, head of the programme management division of the United States' Freedom of Information Library in its reading room in the Pentagon in Washington.

Freud Bill, as it permitted a number of exemptions, including sensitive defence and security material.

The Ministry assumed that if the Bill became law on January 1, 1980, it would have been allowed a year of grace before being obliged to release its material. That exercise, the study estimated, would have cost £25m and absorbed 1,200 man-years of Civil Service labour at the ministry's headquarters alone, with at least an equivalent effort at military and civilian establishments through-

out the country. The study considered such an operation to be impractical.

If a staged implementation over a period of years had been permitted, the ministry judged the prospect less daunting, though the total cost would have been greater. The study also estimated that it would take two years to examine five years of back files once the sorting of current documents was complete. That would have been the late 1980s before the ministry caught up with the

30-year rule and it would have cost £30m.

The prospect of the Freud Bill establishing such a retrospective right of access to documents not normally releasable until 30 years had elapsed was one that haunted GEN 146. Officials were authorized to bargain with Mr Freud's team of advisers on the point, and discussions were taking place when the Callaghan government lost its vote of confidence in April.

Each would have had available, for immediate consultation, items common to the whole ministry like staff instructions and training schemes, other than those falling inside the exempt category plus additional catalogues to assist the public in determining precisely the documents they required. Such catalogues would list only those documents that were available.

Sadly, the work came to an abrupt halt in April when the general election was called.

The ministry's plan had not even reached the sixth floor of its main building in Whitehall where ministers, permanent secretaries and chiefs of staff take final decisions on policy matters.

## Bequest of £300,000 to library 'a valid trust'

A £300,000 gift to the library of the Taylor Institution at Oxford University by Dr Theodore Besterman, a Voltaire scholar, to continue his life's work as a valid charitable trust, Mr Justice Slade ruled in the High Court yesterday.

The Judge dismissed arguments on behalf of Dr Besterman's widow, Mrs Marie-Louise Besterman, of Thorpe Mandeville House, Thorpe Mandeville, Banbury, Oxfordshire, challenging the validity of the trust.

Dr Besterman, who died in November, 1976, owned a valuable collection of books, manuscripts and works of art concerning Voltaire and the Enlightenment. In his lifetime he presented many of them to the library.

He left his residuary estate on trust for the university to complete his research work on Voltaire, Rousseau and other authors.

At his death two specific projects were unfinished, a complete correspondence of Rousseau, of which 10 of 42 volumes had been published, and the complete works of Voltaire in 150 volumes, of which 91 had been completed. "Dr Besterman intended that his money should be used to finish these two items," the Judge said.

On behalf of Mrs Besterman it was argued that the trust was not charitable because it involved the mere pursuit of knowledge without its communication to others.

## Labour challenge on pension shortfall

By Pat Healy  
Social Services Correspondent

Opposition MPs have tabled 14 amendments to the Social Security Bill, which begins its committee stage today, in an attempt to prevent the Government from breaking the earnings link with pension increases.

Their determination to embarrass the Government has been intensified by the disclosure last week that the November pensions increase was 2 per cent too low.

"There is no sign that the Government intends to make good the shortfall, which makes it much more important that the link with earnings is not broken," Mr Stanley Orme, Labour spokesman on social services, said yesterday. "We intend to raise this issue very strongly during the committee stage."

Mr Orme fears that if the Government succeeds in dropping the link with either earnings or prices, the newly disclosed shortfall will never be made up. The previous shortfall of 1.8 per cent under the Labour administration, in which Mr Orme was Minister for Social Security, was made up last November.

Mr Andrew Bennett, Labour MP for Stockport, North, a member of the standing com-

mittee on the Bill, has tabled amendments seeking to impose a new duty on the Government to make good any shortfall in future.

He proposes that it should be done by paying pensioners a lump sum when the relevant figures become known, usually two months after an increase, and then adding the appropriate proportion to pensions at the next increase.

"The only duty at present is to raise pensions by the amount of earnings or price increases, but if the Government gets it wrong there is no duty to make good the shortfall," Mr Bennett said yesterday.

"Pensioners get very upset because increases are announced 22 weeks before they get the money. Paying a lump sum would get round that problem without raising technical difficulties."

The Labour MPs also intend to press Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Social Services, to say how the Government intends to allow pensioners to share in increases in prosperity if the present link with earnings or prices is changed to prices only.

Mr Jenkin assured the Commons during the second reading debate that the Government meant pensioners to share in rising standards of living.

## Three die in fire at National Trust house

From Our Correspondent  
Oxford

Mr Eric Rodgers and Mr Derek Liggins, the landlords, and Mrs Barbara Hiscock, died when fire destroyed their remote riverside public house yesterday. The three bodies were found by firemen in the ruined Anchor Inn at Eaton Hastings, Oxfordshire.

Brian Tremblen, a part-time barman, left the three there late on Sunday night after discussing plans for the marriage on Saturday of Mr Liggins, a widower in his 50s, and Mrs Hiscock.

The fire was spotted about 3.20 am by Pauling James, aged 17, in the neighbouring village of Kelmscott, half a mile away. Firemen believe a gas fire cylinder may have exploded, sending flames racing through the £40,000 mid-Victorian brick and timber Thameside building owned by the National Trust.

## Mother, aged 16, of murdered baby is taken into care

The mother, aged 16, of a baby girl who was battered to death by her father was taken into care at Birmingham Crown Court today. She admitted causing the baby bodily harm.

Mr Justice Stephen Brown criticized Birmingham social services department for allowing the girl to continue living with the man after she had the baby.

The judge said: "Matters of this sort cause great public concern. What has troubled me greatly is that this girl of only 15 was sent back to a situation to live with a young man of 23 where further criminal offences could take place."

Last Friday the child's father, Robert Allen Haddon, aged 23, was jailed for life for the baby's murder. A pathologist said the baby's fractured skull had probably resulted from the child being picked up by her legs and her head dashed against a wall.

## Boy gets award for damage to eye in viewing eclipse

A boy who was partially blinded watching an eclipse of the sun during a geography lesson is to receive undisclosed damages from his local education authority.

Ralph Gifford, now aged 19, suffered a burn to the retina of his right eye while looking at the eclipse through a smoked glass filter handed to him by his geography teacher at Napier Road School, Gillingham, Kent, in 1976.

An apprentice machinist, at Chatham docks, Mr Gifford, of Beechwood Avenue, Rochester, sued Kent County Council in the High Court.

The council denied liability and claimed that any injury he sustained was due to his

negligence in looking through one filter instead of two, as directed.

Professor Robert Waale told the court yesterday that the boy filter which Mr Gifford said he had used was "not adequate protection to view the sun safely" and that "the only combination which approaches safety is that of the blue and green filters taken together."

He said that young people are generally pupils are larger and more light penetrates their eyes.

After that evidence the action was "stayed" by Mr Justice Cantley on agreed terms, which were not disclosed in court.

## Former Forest chief gets bail

Mr Stuart Dryden, former chairman of Nottingham Forest Football Club, was released from jail yesterday pending an appeal against a six-month sentence imposed at Nottingham Crown Court last Tuesday on four charges of deception.

Bail was granted by the Court of Appeal in London. The application was referred to the court by Mr Justice Paton, sitting in chambers at Paton, sitting in chambers at Lincoln Crown Court, the day after the trial of Mr Dryden of Trevor Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham.

## WHY YOUR LAST FUEL BILL CHARGED YOU FOR HEAT YOU DIDN'T USE.

You've been paying for the heat that got away.

The heat that disappeared through your walls, windows, tank and loft, only to reappear on your fuel bill a few months later. It's obviously heat you can do without, so why not do something about saving it?



For instance, if you fit your hot water tank with a good thick jacket, the heat it retains will keep water hot for longer, consuming less fuel and less money.

Yet even with the thickest jacket there will still be enough heat to air your clothes.



If your bedroom cools down quickly at night, perhaps you should sleep in your loft.

Because that's where the heat could be going.

A full 3 inches of insulation (mat or loose-fill) would keep that warmth where it's most appreciated.

Without efficient insulation your loft is adding a huge extra room to your heating bill.



If you have a large window in your living room, that window could be quietly lowering the temperature while your central heating works overtime to raise it.

In a case like this you'd be well advised to consider double glazing.



And if you heat your house for most of the day, why not talk to some specialist firms about the possibility of installing cavity wall insulation? Here again you could find dramatic savings in fuel.

We've included more advice on these and other forms of insulation in our booklet "Make the most of your heating". (You'll also find details of a grant of up to £50 towards loft and tank insulation.)

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PARLIAMENT, January 21, 1980

## Steel strike causes firm to cancel investment in Wales

House of Commons

At least one industrial company had cancelled its planned investment programme in Wales because of the steel strike, Mr Nicholas Edwards, Secretary of State for Wales, said during questions on his meeting with the Welsh TUC.

Sir Anthony Meyer (West Flint, C)—When we next meet, Mr George Wright (General Secretary of the Welsh TUC) could he draw his attention to the remarkable poll in the Times today which indicates that the overwhelming majority of trade unionists totally support the Government's proposals for amending trade union legislation?

Mr Edwards—He says he and others are good judges of the views of trade union members. I note the trade union did not seek to consult the views of the members before launching the proposals which is doing great damage to the south Wales economy.

We know of at least one industrial company that has already cancelled its planned investment programme because of the strike. The British steel industry, management and unions, have to organize so that they can compete in a competitive world.

Mr Alan Williams, for the Opposition (Swansea, West, Lab)—The company to which he referred was the steel industry. It is not altered regional policy necessitating renegotiation of the package. The company has one of the best industrial relations records in Wales.

The American management had indicated prior to Christmas they were considering cancelling the project because of the downturn in the British economy.

Mr Edwards—I can confirm that we were able to produce no new criteria for selective financial assistance for projects which had been put forward.

Mr Edwards—I am sure Mr Wright will note the poll and those remarks. If the trade union movement in Wales takes that action it will have a damaging effect on business and job prospects in Wales.

Mr Alec Jones, chief Opposition spokesman on Wales (Rhondda, Lab)—When he meets the Welsh TUC will he explain to Mr Wright and the overwhelming number of trade unionists in Wales the benefits which have accrued to Wales as a consequence of Government policies of seriously eroding regional policy, raising, cutting, the Welsh Development Agency budget by some 30 per cent and now proposing to axe steel and coal?

The Welsh TUC and the people of Wales demand a reversal of present Government policy and action to prevent the deindustrialization of south Wales.

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## Secretary of State for Wales denies regional policy has been abandoned

It ill-behaved Labour MPs to give lectures on unemployment, Mr Nicholas Edwards, Secretary of State for Wales, said when questioned about the number out of work in the Principality.

Interest rates and much of the economic difficulties arose from the excessive expansion of the Labour Government and their failure to take the necessary action when the time was right, said Mr Edwards.

He said that on December 6, 1979, there were 85,177 people out of work in Wales compared with 38,424 in February 1974, and 83,024 in May 1979.

Mr David Knox (Leek, C)—These figures reflect badly on the last Labour Government. Why does he think unemployment more than doubled in Wales under the last Government?

Mr Edwards (Pembroke, C)—Unemployment went from 38,000 to a peak of 101,000 under the last Government.

Mr Dafydd Wigley (Caernarvon, Pl Cymru)—Does he fear this figure is going to double again as a result of what is happening in the Welsh economy now—the rundown of the steel industry and the consequent closure of as many as 22 collieries?

Mr Edwards—I would not be so foolish as to give firm forecasts on future unemployment. As to Immo, no Government decision has been made on that matter.

Mr Donald Anderson (Swansea, East, Lab)—It is not the fact that the underemployment figures have been upwards when the Government came to power but that everything it has done since in relation to coal, high interest rates and high exchange rates conspires to make the position worse.

Mr Nicholas Badger (Wolverhampton, South-West, C)—It is perhaps doubtful whether the Immo project will succeed anyway, but it will almost certainly fail if it is located for any regional or political reason.

Mr Edwards—I make no comment on the likely success of the project. There are extremely attractive industrial sites in the region and there is no reason if it is going to succeed anywhere, why it should not succeed on one of these sites.

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WEST EUROPE



Mr Peter Walker, the Agriculture Minister, left, listens to his Italian counterpart, Signor Giovanni Marcora, seated, before the EEC agricultural ministers meeting in Brussels

## Mr Walker firm on farm price freeze

From Michael Hornsby

Brussels, Jan 21

Mr Peter Walker, the Minister of Agriculture, said here today that Britain "started from the position" that farmers' support prices should remain frozen at their current level over the coming year in the case of products in surplus.

A demand by EEC farmers for a 7.9 per cent price rise to offset production costs was described by Mr Walker as "not on", but he declined to give an assurance that Britain would not accept any price rise for surplus products.

Farmers claim that they have suffered a decline in real income for several years while workers in other sectors of EEC economies have continued to enjoy real wage increases despite inflation and recession.

Mr Walker's determination to hold the line on a price freeze this year could be weakened by the fact that there is now little room left to secure price rises for British farmers through devaluation of the "green pound".

The green pound is the artificial exchange rate used for converting the EEC's common farm prices into national currencies. Successive devaluations have reduced the gap between the green pound and the real pound almost to zero.

Mr Finn Olav Gundelach, the EEC Agriculture Commissioner, is expected to propose a two to three per cent increase in support prices for the 1980-81 marketing year early next month, partly to sweeten the pill of other cost-saving measures he wants member states to accept.

These measures mainly involve a special tax on milk production in excess of this year's level and a system of quotas limiting the amount of sugar production covered by price guarantees. Mr Gundelach also wants to limit price support for beef.

Mr Walker and other EEC agriculture ministers had a second round of discussions on these proposals here today, but

it was clear that member states were disinclined to take up firm positions in advance of Mr Gundelach's price proposals.

Commenting on the discussion, Mr Walker said that Mr Gundelach had promised to make changes in the proposals to meet criticisms that had been raised. Britain dislikes the measures because it considers that its own more efficient farmers will be disproportionately penalised.

Mr Walker also disclosed that the European Commission had given France three days to end its prohibitive levies on imports of British lamb or else face action in the European Court of Justice. The Commission has already taken France to the court for banning lamb imports entirely.

Britain was not seeking compensation in French courts for the damage caused by the lamb restrictions because it considered that it was up to the European Commission to protect the Rome Treaty, Mr Walker said.

"This is not an Anglo-French dispute, this is a dispute between the EEC as a whole and one member state who is violating the laws", he added.

## Prague deprives author's wife of her nationality

From Sue Masterman

Vienna, Jan 21

Pavla Kohout, the Czechoslovak dissident author and playwright, has lost his appeal against the Czechoslovak Government's decision to deprive him of his nationality.

Mr Kohout has been informed of the decision by the Czechoslovak Embassy in Vienna and has been told that his wife, Elena, had been deprived of her nationality because she continued to live with him.

Mr Kohout and his wife came to Vienna in the autumn of 1978 with Czechoslovak Government permission to work at Vienna's Burg Theatre for a year. During that year he refused to make any political statements, despite the arrest, trial and convictions of several of his best friends.

When Mr Kohout attempted to return to Czechoslovakia on October 8 last year, he was refused admission. A few days

later the Czechoslovak Embassy in Vienna informed him that he had been deprived of his nationality because of his "subversive activities abroad".

He immediately appealed against the decision and sent a copy, carefully documented with many newspaper reports of his refusal to make political statements, to the Czechoslovak Internal Affairs Ministry.

Mr Kohout is not surprised by the rejection of his appeal, but is extremely angry that his wife has been deprived of her nationality. "Here you see what depths can be reached, and the moral and political weaknesses of a system which interprets human rights by punishing a wife for standing by her husband", he said.

Mr Kohout will continue to work for the Burg Theatre, which has prolonged his contract until 1983.

## Strike and picketing, after a fares rise, finally destroy fame won at Battle of the Marne

## Taxi drivers at war with Parisians

From Charles Hargrove

Paris, Jan 21

The happy and voluble taxi driver, ready to play the benevolent guide to his fares or to air his views on the inequities of the government, is a rapidly disappearing personality of the Paris scene.

Over the years, the fame of Paris taxi drivers has won for themselves a reputation as a lively and necessary contribution. Given the difficulties of the economy and the world recession, this was the worst time to diminish regional support to an area like the North.

Mr David Mitchell, Under-Secretary for Industry, said he shared the concern about high and sustained level of unemployment in the northern region. While the Government was working to reduce unemployment over the next five years—the figure for the region more than doubled between 1974 and 79—and chronic and deep seated nature of the underlying problems.

The Government inherited a situation on industry assistance which the aid was spread too thinly and too wide to be effective. Forty per cent of the country had assisted areas status.

The Government had sought to concentrate assistance on the areas of greatest need. Areas having assisted area status had been reduced to 25 per cent of the country. This meant those which had the worst unemployment became more attractive than before. Special development areas had also been singled out.

The debate was concluded. Seven representations had been received asking for the scheme to be extended, and one suggesting it should not be renewed at the end of March 1980.

without payment and, if the driver protested, slashed his tyres.

Some blacklegs were even held up on the motorway into Paris, their passengers forced out and dumped with their luggage on the side of the road, whence they had to thumb a ride into town.

Airport shuttles were never so crowded, and chauffeur-driven cars plied a lively trade, even though their charges are high—about 120 francs (£15) to go from the Gare de Lyons to the Gare du Nord. Many taxi drivers hanging about stoutly refused offers of even 30 per cent over the authorized fare.

The strike merely underlines a state of affairs which has been deteriorating for years. There were 32,000 taxis in Paris in 1932. Their number was limited to 14,000 by the Popular Front Government in 1937, and, with the backing of officials and politicians, they have stoutly resisted any undermining of this entrenched privilege ever since.

But there is reason to doubt whether even doubling their numbers would solve the problem. "Writes in its latest magazine," writes in its latest issue that there are twice as many taxis in Paris per head of population as in London or Brussels, and nearly four times as many as in Zurich or Amsterdam.

The trouble is that they are simply not there when they are wanted. Most of them vanish from the streets during rush hours, and especially on Friday evening, when weekend traffic makes everything that much

worse. They say that Paris traffic has become so appalling that it is not worth their while driving at those hours. They cannot pay enough.

During rush hours, drivers can get only three or four fares altogether, but to live they need 18 to 20 a day, according to the secretary of the taxi drivers' union.

In spite of increasingly high charges, the trade is not an attractive one. Earnings average between 2,500 francs and 3,000 francs a month (£27 to £33) for 10 hours of work a day. There is also stress, strain and the ever-rising cost of petrol.

Taxi drivers reckon that this year, fuel, insurance and social security will add up to nearly 18 per cent more than they did in 1979, while fares will rise by only 12.5 per cent. Some of them say that in 10 years, their purchasing power has fallen by 50 per cent, and that fares would have to go up by 75 per cent to put things right.

Some solutions have been put forward. The most common one is a quota of tax free petrol for diesel, but the Government has so far turned a deaf ear to this plan, probably for fear that other interest groups would insist on the same.

Another suggestion is banning private cars from the centre of Paris (which would have the advantage of improving the bus service) but it would cause a revolution in a country where owning a car is still a status symbol; and the right to drive anywhere at any time is a cherished freedom.

## Minister not able to guarantee arts aid

The British Library should be able to give a first rate service to British readers and scholars all over the world, Mr Norman St John-Stevens, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, said during Commons questions on the British Library.

Mr Michael Neubert (Havering, Romford, C) had asked the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster "what recent representations he has received on the relocation of the British Library."

Mr Norman St John-Stevens (Chelmsford, C)—I have recently received a letter from the President of the Royal Society of Arts, which says that work on the new building in the Euston Road site should begin as soon as possible. I have also had strong representation in favour of the new building from a number of distinguished people involved with the Library in one way or another.

Mr Neubert—Without pre-empting the work of the new select committee project to relocate the British Library at a cost to public funds of £200m, and the loss of the Library's use of the historic reading room is not entirely auspicious at this time.

Mr St John-Stevens—I am reviewing this whole project, but the sum mentioned is one that has to be considered over a number of years. What is vital is the relocation of books and the fact that the British Library should be able to give a service of first rate quality not only to readers from this country, but scholars from all over the world.

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Mr St John-Stevens—I am reviewing this whole project



## WEST EUROPE

## Government by decree harms process of democracy in Italy

From Peter Nichols  
Rome, Jan 21

The Italian Parliament is floundering beneath waves of obstructionism, absenteeism and the habit of governments to rule by decree. Both the Christian Democrats and the Communists have pointed to this institutional failure as striking at the heart of the country's democracy.

The only difference in the approach of the two biggest parties is the order in which they place the defects. The Communists begin with the practice of the Christian Democratic minority Government of imposing legislation by decree.

The Chamber of Deputies, on the other hand, has been under Communist chairmanship for four years. Its president, Signorino Nitti, who states that the Chamber itself is nearly unworkable and is rapidly approaching the point of no return.

She maintains that the source of the trouble is the weakness of Signor Francesco Cossiga's Government and his use of decrees to offset his lack of a working majority. The technique is that the Government can approve measures and bring them into force by decree but these must be approved by Parliament within 60 days. So far this year the Government has introduced decrees at an average of nearly one a day.

According to Signora Nitti, the constitution only allows the use of decrees for urgent measures. It is supposed to be a form of legislation which should be used as an exception not as a rule.

By making such widespread use of it, she says, the Government has changed the relationship between Parliament and the executive as laid down by the constitution. The legislature, she believes, has been denied its powers of initiative and has become little more than the executive's notary.

Her second objection is to obstructionism. This week she sees one of the highpoints of its use. Literally thousands

of amendments have been proposed to the Government's recent measures against terrorism. Most of them were tabled by the smaller but very active Radical Party, which is now leading the obstructionists.

The Radicals object to government by decree and also to the content—as in the case with the anti-terrorist measures—of some of the Government's legislation. They are helped by the Chamber's rules which allow much liberty of action to smaller parties. The order of parliamentary business for instance has to be agreed unanimously by the leader of every party represented in the Chamber.

The latest reshuffle brought Signor Clelio Darida to the post which handles the Government's relations with Parliament. He is a Christian Democrat by training, unused to frustrating appointments having been the Mayor of Rome.

A few days after taking up his new job, he began talking about the paralysis of Parliament and its danger to democracy.

He points out that not only are the anti-terrorist measures coming before the Chamber this week, but the long discussion of a Bill on the press—this time not a decree but a parliamentary measure—must continue. The latter runs the risk of not being approved despite the fact that it has, theoretically, the backing of a large majority.

As far as he is concerned, obstructionism is the first of Parliament's ills. Such measures have already been approved with sound majorities in the Senate, he points out. He admits that government by decree has been growing. He explains this phenomenon by pointing out that governments have short lives and Parliament, too, has now on several occasions been dissolved well before it has run its full course of five years. Hence governments use decrees as a means of introducing essential measures.

Obstructionism itself, which is aimed against the decree system, also drives governments to use decrees with increasing frequency.

## Dutch bishops accused by Vatican of weakness in upholding priestly celibacy

From Our Own Correspondent  
Rome, Jan 21

The Dutch bishops summoned to the Vatican by the Pope to give an account of themselves today faced, as they could, a damaging punch which came in the form of a question alleging weakness in upholding priestly celibacy.

The summons came at the beginning of the second week of the Dutch church's special synod, which is due to end on Saturday. As usual, the meeting was private and the Pope said silently through the proceedings.

In keeping with the Vatican's information policy, no names are given in the summary of the session.

Supposedly, the question on celibacy came from one of the six cardinals of the Roman Curia, whom the Pope made members of the synod. Given the nature of the question, it may well have come from Cardinal Oddi, the conservative head of the Sacred Congregation for the Clergy.

"Had there not been, perchance," the Dutch bishops were asked, "a lack of clarity on the part of the hierarchy of the Netherlands on the problem of celibacy?"

One of the seven Dutch bishops replied that they had always defended celibacy in a "wise and unequivocal" manner, clearly excluding optional celibacy which some Catholics had proposed.

Another of them said that at present in the Dutch ecclesiastical province the vast majority accepted celibacy without ambiguity. Without ambiguity, he said, he said to the bishops that he was against permanent celibacy. The number of vocations was said to be slightly improving after the "dreadful fall of the last 20 years."

No doubt, the discussion was much fuller than the Vatican's summary suggests. The reported statements are misleading. It is true to say that the bishops, whether conservative or progressive, have been publicly

unanimous in upholding obligatory celibacy for their priests. However, in 1970, the Pastoral Council of the Dutch Church voted strongly in favour of optional celibacy. There is little to suggest that public opinion has been transformed in the past decade. Indeed, there are certain indications that not up to 300 priests who have married work in parishes, though they do not say Mass.

Despite a degree of dispirited resignation among the more advanced echelons, because of the disputes with the Vatican, Dutch Catholicism still has retained its experimental side. This does not necessarily involve the bishops.

Vocations are certainly few, even if rising; seminarians are fewer still because the whole country has only one seminary. That is in the highly conservative bishopric of Roermond, where the bishop reopened the seminary after the rest of the bishops had agreed to send would-be priests to study theology in faculties of public universities.

However, Roermond has gone back to traditionalist methods, which were used to train most of the 1,500 to 2,000 Dutch priests who have abandoned the priesthood over the past two decades. Hence, the call for a return to the old pre-Vatican Council methods can, if imposed by the Vatican, hardly be expected to bring a great improvement.

So far, however, this is the only definite proposal known to have emerged from the council except for the suggestion from the Vatican for increasing the number of bishoprics. The logic of the plan for adding three more bishoprics to the existing seven is that the Pope's choice for the new dioceses would be more in keeping with the conservative thinking prevailing at the Vatican than with the Dutch bishops known to hold progressive views.

The Dutch are treating the proposal with great caution.

## Burglars paint slogans to mislead police

From Our Correspondent  
Vienna, Jan 21

A fire in a council office building in the Vienna suburbs yesterday evening which was at first thought to be a "left-wing terrorist bomb attack" was in fact an ordinary burglary.

The criminals had set fire to the office to destroy possible clues and painted left-wing slogans on the walls to try to mislead the police.

The police noticed that the name of a terrorist, whose release from jail was demanded, was wrongly spelt and that a hammer and sickle emblem had also been drawn wrong way round.

## Summer time plan

Budapest, Jan 21.—Hungary will introduce summer time in April as part of an overall energy savings plan, the news agency MTI said today.

## OVERSEAS

For first time since war Bonn fails to give wholehearted support to American policy

## Germans urge US not to sacrifice benefits of détente

From Patricia Clough  
Bonn, Jan 21

Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, hopes to exercise a moderating influence on President Carter and his Administration during his visit to Washington today and tomorrow.

This is the first world crisis in its 30-year history, when West Germany has not been able wholly and instantly, to see eye to eye with its vitally important ally and the result is deep unhappiness in Bonn.

The double crisis has created a divergence, not so much of interests, but of emphasis. This has been made rather shyer than it would otherwise have been by the fact that both President Carter and the West Germans face elections this year.

While the West Germans source that the Soviet Union should be deterred from other Afghanistan-style ventures, it is anxious not to sacrifice the outstanding and tangible achievements of its détente policy which have benefited not only Germans but Europe as a whole.

Although the Germans are fully aware of the implications of Afghanistan, Berlin, as one newspaper put it, is nearer than Kabul. The Germans dread a return to a cold war atmosphere.

The West German attitude might be better appreciated in Britain if two million Britons lived in a walled city over 100 miles behind Soviet lines, potential pawns in a colossal power game; if minefields and barbed-wire fences ran across the country, keeping a third of the population prisoner in the Communist camp; if instead of the sea there were along its

eastern boundary Soviet tanks and weapons pointed at London, Birmingham and Manchester.

In this Government's ten years in power, Berlin has ceased to be the flashpoint of Europe, its status and access have been secured to a great extent by treaty. Families separated by the division of Germany have been reunited, relatives in East and West can visit and telephone each other, trade is flourishing and ties with East Germany, created which it would be painful and costly to sever. Diplomatic relations with East European countries have been established and the hatred of the former enemy is being slowly replaced, at least on government level by respect.

"Is this all in count for nothing any more?" Herr Helmut Schmidt, the Chancellor, asked Parliament last week.

The Americans have asked their ally for fuller support and have got it—in words. Deeds are proving harder to produce.

Although unconvinced of their effectiveness, Bonn is willing to join in coordinated sanctions by the West against the Soviet Union. But a hard look at the files have shown that this would not amount to much.

It is willing to discuss an embargo on the export of high technology goods through Cocom (the coordinating committee for East-West trade policy) but this would probably boil down to some rather small computers.

The Americans are also pressing Bonn to withdraw state trade guarantees but these are embedded in a treaty. To breach treaties would open the way for an appalling escalation,

with Berlin as the first victim. The greatest deterrent to the Soviet Union in German eyes is the revolution among Third World countries, who realize that they too could fall victim to Russian power strategy. But any attempt to exploit this by the West would only do more harm than good.

However, the Germans are planning to give even more economic aid to countries on the fringes of the crisis area, including Pakistan, India and Turkey.

Officially Bonn is maintaining an open mind about the Olympic Games while President Carter decides what to do. Meanwhile Herr Schmidt has said he intends to go ahead with planned meetings with President Brezhnev and Herr Erich Honecker, the East German leader, and will work even harder for détente.

## Two polls support Olympic boycott call

From David Cross  
Washington, Jan 21

President Carter's claim that the American people will support his appeal for a boycott of this summer's Olympic Games in Moscow if Soviet troops remain in Afghanistan is strengthened by two recent public opinion polls.

The result of a survey published today by Newsweek magazine shows that by a three-to-one margin, Americans favour moving the games out of Moscow to an alternative site if the Russians stay in Afghanistan. If the Olympics cannot be moved, the poll indicates, 55 per cent of those interviewed want a United States boycott.

The results also show the public agreeing with Mr Carter's assessment that if the Olympic Games are held in Moscow without America taking part, this could have an impact on future Russian foreign policy. In appealing for American athletes to stay away from Moscow yesterday, Mr Carter said he wanted such a move might deter future Soviet aggression.

A second, less scientific poll conducted by the Washington Star showed 85 per cent of its readers who responded by post being in favour of a boycott.

Predictably, though, organizers of the American Olympic team and the athletes are less keen on the idea.

As a general rule, older athletes grudgingly support a boycott but young athletes, who expect to attend the games for the first time, understand why do not want to waste the training they have put in.

Before announcing his decision on President Carter's appeal, the United States Olympic committee announced last night that he wants the Olympic Games transferred from Moscow or cancelled (Michael Binyon writes from Moscow).

Tass said the President, who boasted that he was a human rights champion, has no use for the rights of others if these run counter to his political ambitions. A commentator, referring to the American hostages in Tehran, said that in spite of Mr Carter's repeated denunciations of the use of hostages for political ends, the sportsman had assumed that role "in his present adventure."

"If one is to use sports terminology, one can say that the Olympic annals will recall Carter as a man who erected, rather than cleared, hurdles. Carter's decision will, in the long run, no doubt prove to be a goal he scored into his own net."

Western reaction: West European governments responded with caution today to President Carter's boycott call.

So far Canada and Britain are the only other members of the Western alliance to advocate boycotting the Moscow games. Other governments, turning over the issue again today to President Carter's request, pondered whether the impact of an Olympic ban on Moscow would outweigh the broken dreams of thousands of athletes. —Reuter.

## New Afghan rulers try appeasement and threats

From Robert Fisk  
Kabul, Jan 21

Mr Babrak Karmal's Government, in an attempt to appease Muslim fundamentalists, is to change the Afghan flag to the colour of Islam, green, but a directive from the politbureau promises that military action against tribesmen will be intensified.

This carrot-and-stick policy of trying to neutralise Muslim anxiety over the left-wing intentions of the Government, while threatening increased pressure against dissident tribesmen, is likely to set the pattern for the early months of Mr Karmal's new administration.

The disappearance of green from the national flag after the overthrow of the Daoud regime in 1978 was a cause of much contention among the clergy, and its reappearance will undoubtedly be welcomed.

Less acceptable to Afghans, however, will be Mr Karmal's promise to treat "with revolutionary decisiveness" what the party refers to as "terrorists, gangsters, murderers and highwaymen."

A politbureau statement also castigated Western press reporting of Afghanistan, mentioning not only the recent expulsion of American correspondents from the country but alleging too that British and other European reporters were guilty of "mudslinging."

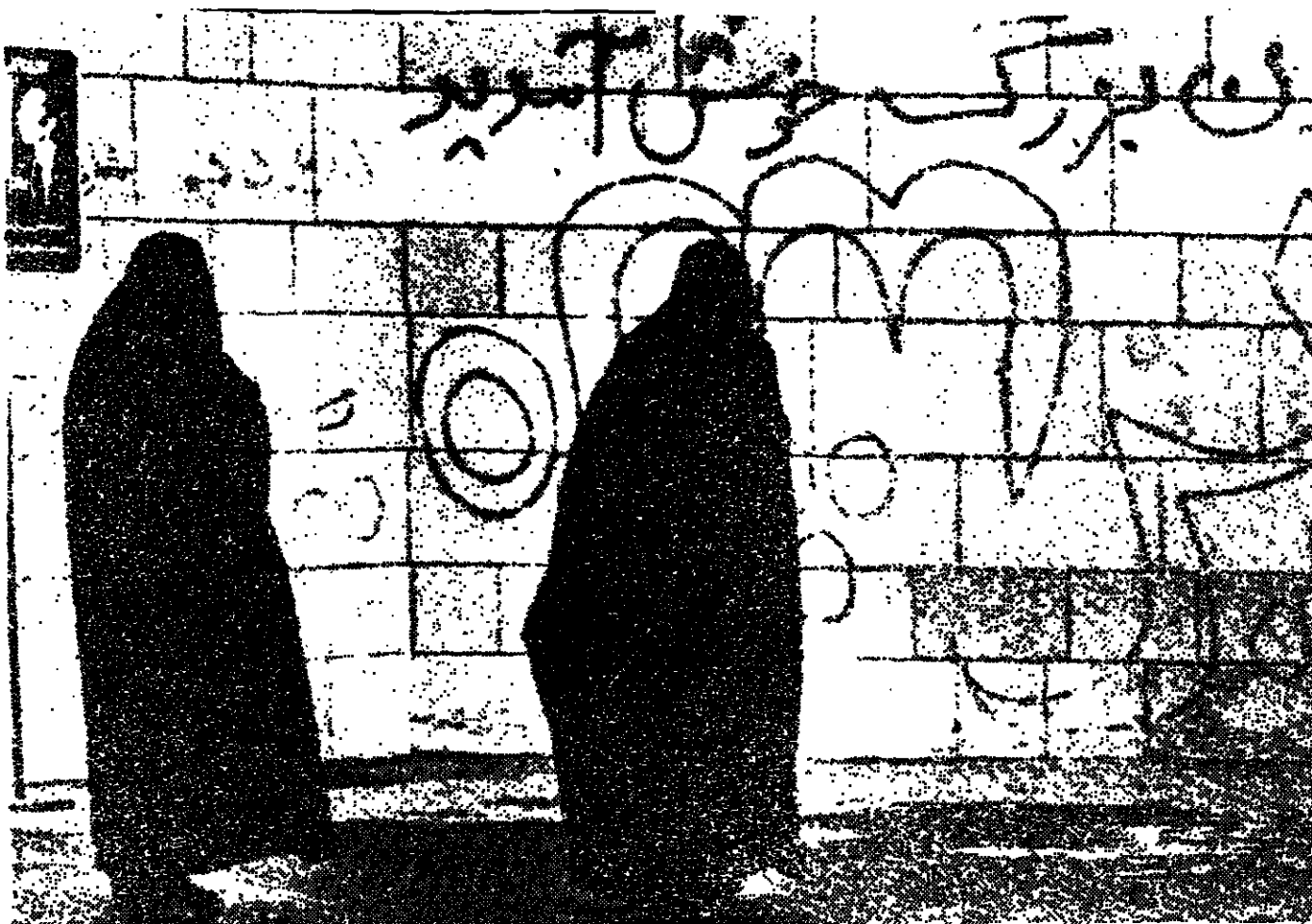
Visas stopped: The Afghan Embassy in Delhi said today it was under instructions from the Government in Kabul to stop issuing visas to all journalists. An embassy official said in a statement that the issue was received on Saturday when the Government in Kabul decided to halt, for the moment, the issue of documents allowing Western journalists to work in Afghanistan.

The global scope of the recent Soviet moves, as seen by the Chinese Government, is believed to be one reason why Mr Huang Hua, the Foreign Minister, has flown at short notice for talks in Pakistan, without sparing time to take along expert military advisers to discuss details of future Chinese aid.

China evidently considers that its earlier assessment of the Soviet Union as untrustworthy and aggressive was correct. The recent moves towards a slow reconciliation, it is believed, were made in order to appease some political and military circles in Peking who were worried about the danger of a war with Russia while China's armed forces were still inadequately equipped.

The Afghan crisis, it is believed, has convinced the Peking leadership that there is nothing to be gained by negotiating with the Soviet Union on matters more important than navigation rules.

China shares the view of President Zia ul Haq of Pakistan that only the United States can muster forces strong enough to counter the Soviet Union's southward drive at short notice. Peking's own role, it is thought, will be to drum



Iranian women read slogans on the wall of a Tehran mosque calling for death to the Shah.

## China fears Soviet drive in Asia and Balkans

From David Bonavia  
Hong Kong, Jan 21

China's decision to suspend political talks with the Soviet Union reflects her concern that recent Soviet moves in Afghanistan herald a major southward offensive by Soviet forces in Asia and the Balkans according to semi-official left-wing sources here.

Though unable to tell whether the Soviet Union had foreknowledge of President Tito's illness, the Peking leadership said that Moscow will try to present the West with a fait accompli through military pressure on Yugoslavia and Pakistan, leading to access for the Soviet Navy to ports on the Adriatic and the Arabian Sea.

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up political support among its many friends in the Third World for any moves by the United States to stem the tide of Soviet expansion.

Now that several Arab states have announced their decision to boycott the Moscow Olympic Games, it is likely that China will do the same, although losing the chance of showing off the results of years of secret training will be a bitter blow.

Sport, however, takes a back seat to China's urgent sense of the need to bring the Nato powers and the Third World — particularly the Middle Eastern countries — together in joint opposition to further Soviet gains.

A serious worry for China is that if the Soviet Union succeeds in subduing Afghanistan, and later perhaps Pakistan and Iran, it will not be slow to sever parts of Central Asia from their political ties with Peking and set up an "independent" Republic of Eastern Turkistan.

The events in Afghanistan were particularly ominous for China, since they coincided with the ill health of President Tito, one of Peking's best friends in East Europe. The Chinese fear that if Moscow should attempt to subvert or control Yugoslavia after President Tito's death, Romania would be the next target.

Combined with the possible subjugation of Albania—China's former ally but now an outspoken critic of Chinese policy — such a strategy on the part of the Soviet Union would mean complete Russian control of the Balkans as far as the Greek frontier.

While seemingly remote from China's area of influence, the Balkans have in the past given Peking its most important political weapon against the Soviet Union in Europe—where the Nato leaders, with the exception of Mrs Thatcher, are seen by the Chinese as too little aware of the Soviet threat.

## Hit-and-run on the road to Kabul

From Ian Murray  
Kabul, Jan 21

The driver was scarcely a fearless Afghan. He visibly shook with fright when he was told he must go on to Kabul. He stopped the minibus, turned round and headed back with a will to Jalalabad.

There was no point in shouting or even in threatening to pay him nothing. It was only when the minibus signalled to us another that the way is clear when they pass each other as a normal matter of road courtesy. But nobody seems to believe that what is going on is a combined guerrilla operation to chase the Russians from Afghanistan.

The road itself, one of the most important in the country, has been left to the Afghan Army to protect, yet except around Jalalabad, Afghan soldiers are not much in evidence.

It was not until reaching the plateau leading from the gorge to the city that there were any Russian soldiers on view, and there were fewer of them about than there had been a fortnight ago. The few tanks visible on the roadside were all in canvas wraps and left with a minimal guard. Our driver stopped shaking and drove on confidently.

In Jalalabad last night there had been no electricity for the sixth night running because the local transformer had been blown up—for the third time in recent weeks. But apart from that, fighting in the area appears to be less than it was just over a week ago.

The fighting now going on is in the traditional hit-and-run manner of the Afghan tribal bandits and is the type of thing that transcontinental drivers have learnt to expect in the area. To judge by our driver today, the average Afghan is more terrified of his own lawless compatriots than he is of the Soviet Army.

Chaban-Delmas visit hailed by delighted Moscow

From Michael Binyon  
Moscow, Jan 21

Mr Jacques Chaban-Delmas, president of the French National Assembly and a former prime minister, arrived here today at the start of a 10-day official visit at the invitation of the Supreme Soviet.

He is the first senior Western politician to come to Moscow since the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, and his visit is seen as very significant.

The visit, parliamentary delegations were arranged a year ago, and French sources say there was no question of its being cancelled. M Chaban-Delmas may be received by President Brezhnev or other Soviet leaders, and is expected to outline to them France's position on Afghanistan as well as to members of the Supreme Soviet.

arrival: "The difficulties currently existing in the world give us an additional reason to come here and discuss topical matters". He had come to Moscow as a true follower of General de Gaulle's ideas, "as a man who wants nothing to disrupt the development of relations between France and the Soviet Union."

The Russians are particularly pleased that it is the French, with whom they have enjoyed good relations for nearly two decades, who have symbolically asserted Europe's independence of America by continuing with the visit.

Two Tass headlines today succinctly sum up the Soviet feelings: "USSR-France: relations partnership" and "France: diplomacy: traditional, realism". The first headline is in pointed contrast to President Brezhnev's recent assessment of President Carter as an "absolutely unreliable partner."

## Congress asked for early Bill to arm Pakistan

Continued from page 1

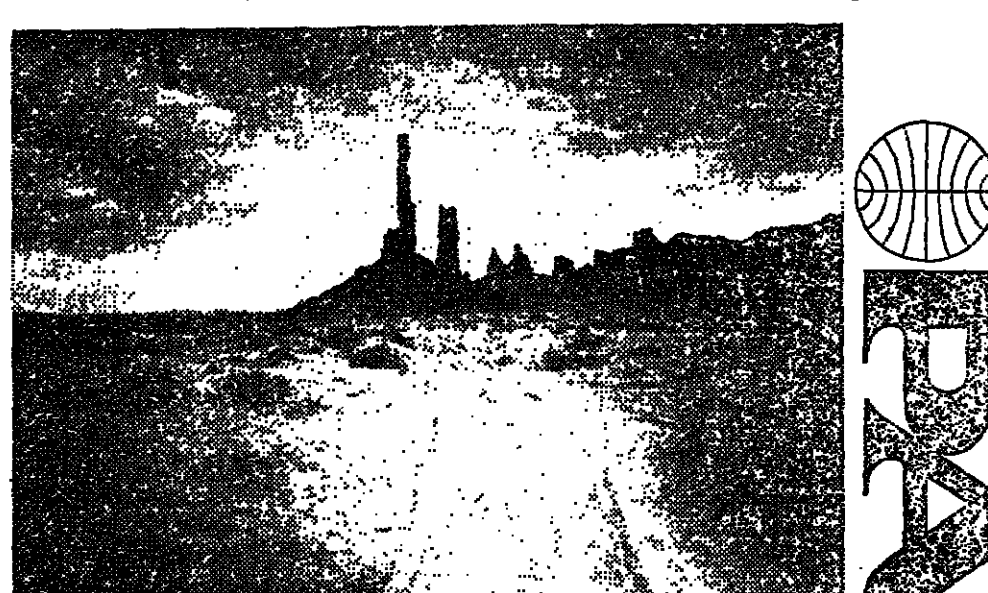
region will be dealing with the new situation posed by Soviet aggression in Afghanistan. "We must help the regional states develop a capability to withstand Soviet pressures."

He named India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal in this context.

"In this new situation, we are proposing to the Congress a military and economic assistance programme to enable Pakistan to buttress its defences," Mr Carter said. This was a matter of the "most urgent concern" and he strongly urged "the earliest possible approval" by the House and Senate.

"We must pay whatever price is required to remain the strongest nation in the world," he said. In this context, the President reaffirmed his recent decision to ask Congress to approve a 5 per cent increase in funding authority for defence next year.

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OVERSEAS

# Russia knows that this is not the time to try to entice Yugoslavia back into Soviet fold

From Michael Binyon Moscow, Jan 21

Soviet television interrupted its main evening news bulletin last night to report the amputation of President Tito's leg. The report of an illness or operation on a leading statesman is extremely rare in the Soviet Union, and reflects the intense concern with which the Russians are watching the situation in Yugoslavia.

On Friday President Brezhnev sent a telegram to President Tito wishing him an "early and complete" recovery from his illness, and expressing his hopes that the Yugoslav leader would still guide his country's policy towards the Russians for a long time yet.

The telegram was a sincere reflection of Soviet feelings at the moment. In the present tense world atmosphere created by the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, the last thing Moscow wants now is a succession crisis in a country that has long had sensitive relations with the Soviet Union.

The Russians know and respect Marshal Tito, a man who personally took part in the Bolshevik Revolution, something the present Soviet leadership cannot boast.

They have come to accept that under his rule Yugoslavia must be considered a special case among communist countries. They have never accepted the ideological heresy of his brand of communism. They have often been angered by Yugoslavia's non-aligned foreign policy, and they have not given up the idea that the country might one day be enticed back to the Soviet fold. But now is not the time.

Indeed, the Russians are unlikely to make any move that could be interpreted by a suspicious Yugoslav public as putting pressure on the strategically placed Balkan state for a long time after President Tito's death. They could exploit the simmering differences between

their close ally Bulgaria and Yugoslavia, they could attempt to encourage factions in any future collective leadership that looks towards Moscow, they could offer substantially larger trade incentives to tie Yugoslavia more closely to them economically. But they will first wait to see how things develop if Marshal Tito dies.

In some ways Yugoslavia's status in Soviet eyes is comparable to that of Finland—politically close to one half of Europe, but of vital strategic and political importance to the other half.

Three days ago, Tass dismissed as "crude, provocative and false" the contention that there was a Soviet threat to Yugoslavia, and said such statements indicated the obvious intentions of NATO to interfere in Yugoslav affairs. Relations between the two countries, Tass said, were marked by "profound friendliness".

That this is officially true is because of President Tito's ceaseless efforts during his 17 visits to Moscow to ensure that the Kremlin endorses the Yugoslav position.

The phrasing of communiqués on such visits is a matter of extreme delicacy. But it appears that the last visit here by the Yugoslav leader last summer was one of the most successful: the Russians publicly accepted his contention that the two countries followed different paths to socialism, but this need not bar the way to friendly relations.

On world issues Moscow still has sharp differences with Yugoslavia, which has taken the lead in opposing Cuba—and Moscow's attempts to turn the non-aligned movement towards Moscow.

The Russians were particularly stung by Yugoslavia's condemnation last year of Vietnam's intervention in Kampuchea. A few days ago, they also sharply attacked those communist parties, notably the

Yugoslavs, which opposed the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

Although such criticism hurts, especially coming from a communist country, Moscow knows it is part of the independence which President Tito wrested from Stalin after the Second World War and which is now accepted by the West as an important factor in present-day Europe. So, too, is Yugoslavia's friendship with China.

But foreign policy, though an irritant, is less worrying to the Soviet leadership than the ideological differences and the example of Yugoslav communism in action at home. Such an example, the Kremlin always fears, may be contagious in the Soviet Union.

The main criticism levelled at the editor-in-chief of Pravda three years ago, when his paper exploded the only outward symbol of his rank. Only a handful of other officers, including the unit's political commissar, wear similar hats, which were originally designed to protect Soviet Army soldiers from the rigours of a Russian winter.

Colonel Nyathi is in command of the only formal military detachment from either wing of the Patriotic Front Alliance to have reported to one of the 14 assembly areas in accordance with the terms of the ceasefire agreement.

On the last day of the ceasefire assembly period, his battalion marched in column of two into this assembly area, code named "Lido", situated about 80 miles west of Bulawayo and only about 15 miles from the Botswana border.

There were 475 men in his unit, all kitted out in an assortment of Russian, Cuban, East German and Libyan uniforms and carrying with them an impressive array of weaponry, including some heavy mortars and two 14.5 mm anti-aircraft machine-guns.

It was an impressive and somewhat daunting sight, remarked Major Brian Hewitt, of the New Zealand Army, who is in charge of the 28 New Zealand and British members of the Commonwealth Monitoring Force based at "Lido".

"We were naturally a bit wary about having to deal with such a large and organized force at first, but I now reckon we are very lucky to have them here. They are very disciplined and are trying to instil some of that discipline into the 200-odd Zippa guerrillas we have here."

Colonel Nyathi and the Zippa liaison officer, Lieutenant Colonel Albert Zikhale, were very about revealing too much about the force's activities. However, it appears it was trained in Zambia (although some individuals were also in



Bullring tragedy: Rescue workers mingling with bewildered survivors in the debris of five grandstands, which collapsed at a Colombian bullfight on Sunday, killing at least 160 people and injuring more than 500. The disaster occurred in the Caribbean coastal city of Sincelejo during a traditional annual

fiesta, when young bulls are fought both by amateurs and professionals.

Police said the stadium was overcrowded and the temporary stands had been weakened by hours of torrential rain. "It just collapsed like a house of cards", said a police officer. "People were screaming under the

debris and we were nearly swept away in the panic." Many of the dead, including numerous children, were trampled to death in the rush for safety.

Newspaper reports said the death toll might rise to 300.

## Zippa regulars are a well organized and disciplined force

### A fur hat in the heat is a sign of authority

From Nicholas Ashford Madhambudzi, Jan 21

During the daytime in this corner of Southern Rhodesia the temperature usually soars from the 100 degree mark. Yet despite the oppressive heat Lieutenant-Colonel Middle Nyathi, commander of the first battalion of the second brigade of the Zimbabwe African People's Revolutionary Army (ZAPU), insists on wearing his Soviet Army fur hat, complete with a red-backed badge bearing Lenin's portrait, at all times.

In the absence of any other forms of insignia on his Russian-made uniform it was explained, the only outward symbol of his rank. Only a handful of other officers, including the unit's political commissar, wear similar hats, which were originally designed to protect Soviet Army soldiers from the rigours of a Russian winter.

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Colonel Nyathi and the Zippa liaison officer, Lieutenant Colonel Albert Zikhale, were very about revealing too much about the force's activities. However, it appears it was trained in Zambia (although some individuals were also in

Tanzania and the Soviet Union) and crossed over the Zambezi River into Southern Rhodesia close to the Victoria Falls last August.

From there the force gradually made its way south towards the main road and railway line between Bulawayo and the Botswana border. The officers did not say whether similar units were in existence, but according to sources in Bulawayo there are as many as 6,000 Zippa forces still based in Zambia.

Unlike guerrillas in other assembly areas, the regular Zippa troops follow a strict military routine in the camp. There are daily physical training sessions, drill parades, political classes and discussions on tactics.

Relations between the Zippa commanders and the Commonwealth force seem to be excellent, so much so that Major Hewitt has even persuaded them to allow an officer from the local police station, Section Officer Bruce Canale, to pay regular visits to the camp. "It is essential the two sides start talking now while we are still here," Major Hewitt said.

While he conceded there were still several hundred guerrillas in the region who had not assembled, largely, he said, because communication with them was difficult, he felt that less drastic action should be used against them if possible.

Another serious problem in his view was the presence of South African troops at the Beit Bridge, a point which also worried Colonel Nyathi. "The South Africans shouldn't be there. It is against the Lancaster House agreement",

he said. "The Zippa guerrillas in the area. One section of the agreement states that if the police and Zippa find armed dissidents who refuse to be disarmed they will be shot."

As far as we are concerned the ceasefire is going well, but the situation is tenuous said Major Hewitt. Back in Bulawayo Commander Titus Plaid, the principal Zippa liaison officer, also expressed satisfaction with the ceasefire, but said there were a number of problems over which it could break down. In particular he was concerned about a possible repetition of an incident that took place near Lupane, 110 miles north of Bulawayo, about 10 days ago in which the police and security forces killed seven Zippa guerrillas.

## Cairo 'delay' in opening flights to Tel Aviv

From Christopher Walker Jerusalem, Jan 21

Indications are growing that the new crisis between Israel and Egypt over the theory subject of Palestinian autonomy may seriously impede progress towards the proper normalization of relations between the two countries which is due to begin at the weekend.

In a front-page story this morning, the Hebrew daily, *Al Hamishmar*, quotes General Taha Maghoub, the official in the Egyptian Foreign Ministry as stating that the national airline, Egyptair, has decided not to open an office in Israel, nor to begin flights to Tel Aviv next week as previously scheduled.

The agreement that both El Al and Egyptair would start flying regularly between Cairo and Tel Aviv on January 27 was one of the few points of agreement to emerge from the unsuccessful Arab summit meeting between President Sadat and Mr Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister.

General Maghoub's comment followed an official announcement from Cairo late last week that the Egyptian Government has formally approved a parliamentary recommendation to slow down the pace of normalizing economic and cultural relations with Israel.

The Arab affairs correspondent of *Al Hamishmar* also quotes the Egyptian general as stating that El Al will not be permitted to open an office in Cairo, and that the entire subject of flights between the two countries will be "subject to the articles agreed to by both sides in the Camp David agreement."

Among senior Israeli sources, there was speculation that El Al will be left to fly the new route alone, having come to some financial arrangement with the Egyptians. This would extricate Egyptair from the possibility of crippling commercial sanctions from the rest of the Arab world. Any such move would be a serious setback to the process of normalization, which is eagerly awaited by an Israeli public.

In a separate development, it is understood that a team of experts from the Israeli Foreign Ministry will fly to Cairo tomorrow to examine a house discovered any suitable building for either the proposed Israeli Embassy or the residence for the new ambassador.

As the corresponding team of Egyptian experts has not yet been named, it is now likely that the formal opening of diplomatic relations will be a low-key affair with both teams housed in temporary premises.

The Israeli Government has also once again defied criticism of its expansionist policy in the occupied territories, and announced plans in tandem with the World Zionist Organization, to establish two more Jewish settlements on the West Bank.

## US officials seriously concerned over Moscow's intentions

From Our Own Correspondent Washington, Jan 21

American support for Yugoslavia's independence and territorial integrity, has been reaffirmed here but the State Department spokesman refused to be drawn on questions of what might happen when President Tito dies. He reminded reporters of a Government statement to that effect which was issued when President Tito was here on a state visit two years ago.

American officials are now seriously concerned about Yugoslavia. The Russian invasion of Afghanistan is a nasty precedent, and although American reaction to that event is chiefly directed at containing the damage in the Middle East, it is hoped here that a show of sufficient firmness over Afghanistan will deter the Russians from meddling in Yugoslav affairs.

Observers here think that events in Yugoslavia when Marshal Tito dies will be decided by the unity not only of the Communist Party and the Government, but above all of the Yugoslav Army. The threat from the East should help national unity, it is believed here.

The degree of support offered from the West will also be important. The European Community is rushing to complete its agreement with Yugoslavia and Americans and Western Europeans leave no doubt

of their concern for Yugoslav independence.

All this may not be enough. Officials here repeatedly emphasize the long-term effects of the weak and short-lived Western response to Soviet aggression in Hungary in 1956 and in Czechoslovakia in 1968. There is, furthermore, the unfortunate matter of President Carter's remarks about Yugoslavia during the 1976 elections.

He was asked about his ideas on the subject during a televised debate with President Ford. His reply was clearly carefully considered. The full quotation is as follows:

Question: "The next big crisis spot in the world may be Yugoslavia. President Tito is old and sick, and there are divisions in his country. It is pretty certain the Russians are going to do everything they possibly can after Tito dies to force Yugoslavia back into the Soviet camp. But on Saturday, you said, and this is a quote: 'I would not go to war in Yugoslavia even if the Soviet Union sent in troops'."

"Doesn't that statement practically invite the Russians to intervene in Yugoslavia?" Mr Carter replied: "Over the last two weeks, I've had a chance to talk to two men who have visited the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia and China. One is Governor Averell Harriman and the other one is James Schlesinger.

"Mr Harriman talked to the leaders in Yugoslavia, and I think it is accurate to say that there is no prospect, in their opinion, of the Soviet Union invading Yugoslavia should Mr Tito pass away. The present leadership there is fairly unified in their purpose, and I think it's a close-knit group, and I think it would be unwise for us to say that we will go to war in Yugoslavia if the Soviets should invade, which I think would be an extremely unhelpful thing to say."

"I have maintained from the very beginning of my campaign, and this was a standard answer that I made in response to the Yugoslavian question, that I would never go to war, become militarily involved, in the internal affairs of another country unless our own security was directly threatened. And I don't believe that our security would be directly threatened if the Soviet Union went into Yugoslavia. I don't believe it will happen. I certainly hope it won't."

"I would take the strongest possible measures, short of actual military action there by our own troops, but I doubt that that would be an eventuality."

This statement has been of considerable embarrassment to senior officials ever since. It has never been disavowed, the way President Carter's promise "never" to impose an embargo on the export of grain has been disavowed.

## Seoul accuses North of false peace offensive

Seoul, Jan 21.—President Choi Kyu Hah of South Korea today accused North Korea of mounting a false peace offensive in an attempt to subvert the South after the assassination of President Park Chung Hee last October.

Mr Choi said the North might undertake a military attack if there were social confusion in South Korea.

His charges came three days after he said he was considering a North Korean proposal made nine days ago for talks at prime ministerial level on ways to reunify the two halves of the country.

Mr Choi was speaking at an annual meeting with Cabinet ministers, provincial governors and police chiefs on ways to combat Northern espionage.

## McCartney offer to meet loss of cancelled tour

Tokyo, Jan 21.—The Tokyo district prosecutor's office said no decision had been reached on whether to charge Paul McCartney, the former Beatle, or deport him on allegations of trying to smuggle marijuana into Japan.

Several hundred fans gathered outside the Budokan martial arts hall where Mr McCartney and his group Wings had been scheduled to begin their 11-concert tour today.

Mr McCartney is reported to have offered to reimburse Japanese promoters for their losses on the cancelled tour.

Mr Takahiro Kawaguchi, vice-president of the 4,000-member Complete Fan Club, said his organization was asking members to sign a petition to be sent to Mr McCartney to show their solidarity with him. —UPI.

## Iowa wants a man who will hold the line against price rises

From Patrick Brogan Grinnell, Iowa, Jan 21

A deathly hush settled over Iowa yesterday afternoon. The television men turned off their cameras. The candidates turned off their smiles. The campaign workers turned from their task of trying to sway the male population turned on the television.

Some women did so, too, but not many. Football remains a man's game, and yesterday was Superbowl Sunday, when the last two teams fought it out in the sun in Miami.

Iowans enjoy politics and find the national debate over the Presidential nomination, which is being held here, fascinating and important. But football has their hearts, as it has the hearts of most Americans, and politics were abandoned.

Mr George Bush, one of the most serious of Republican candidates, threw a Superbowl party in Des Moines. Five hundred people watched from their seats, and Mr Bush appeared at halftime, though not to campaign. The Pittsburgh Steelers won for the fourth year in a row.

Afterwards, in Grinnell, the children were packed off to bed and it was back to politics. The owner of a local factory, Mr Sharp Lannom, drew an analogy between such domestic scenes and international affairs. "If you mean it, when you tell the kids to go to bed, and if the kids learn when you mean it, then off they go. If you don't really mean it, they know that you don't, and they won't."

"It's the same with the Russians. They don't believe Carter really means it. They've seen him back off too many times before."

The President had appeared on television that morning, saying that if the Russians did not pull out of Afghanistan in a month, the Olympics should be boycotted. "What's all this ultimatum nonsense?" asked Mr Lannom. "He should have said: 'Right, that's it, no Olympics' and they might have believed him. Who can take him seriously?"

He is a fan of Ronald Reagan. He and his wife had watched Mr Reagan address a televised rally in Des Moines on Saturday night, and were much impressed by his performance. "He's got something, I suppose," he said. "It's the content of the screen," Mrs Lannom said. "We need someone with real leadership, with guts," Mr

Lannom said, "and Reagan's got it."

But might it not be that Mr Reagan is not a leader at all, just an excellent actor?

"That's right, he's an actor. That's what America needs." The moment of Reagan's certainty dissolved. Neither was yet really decided who to vote for this evening.

They suspected that Mr Reagan was merely an aging actor, they feared that Mr Bush was not forceful enough, they had enjoyed Senator Howard Baker meeting here on Friday but resisted his charm.

As proud Republicans, however, they are delighted at the quality of their various candidates compared with those of the Democrats. Mr Lannom was particularly scathing about Senator Edward Kennedy. "I could never trust a man who cheats on his wife. It's the worst thing a man can do. You can't trust the fate of the world, nor just America, to a man who would do that."

Across the tracks, the Democrats have much the same pre-occupations. Mrs Kennedy gave a stunningly effective and very emotional defence of her husband when cornered by a television crew at an airport last week. She believes his account of Chappaquiddick. No one can measure what effect the incident will have on the polls and observers here, meaning practically everyone in the state, are more directly interested in organizational questions.

Mr Douglas Fraser, president of the United Auto Workers has come out for Senator Kennedy. He has campaigned for the senator here and has called out the workers—there are many plants in Iowa making parts for cars.

Will they answer when he calls on them? A lot of people here think that they will not. This is not a primary. People must turn out in the cold of the evening with their neighbours, choosing delegates at three renovers from the national convention. It is all rather remote. Ten per cent of Democrats turned out in 1976 and Mr Carter got less than 30 per cent of their votes.

He was launched towards victory, therefore, with about 3 per cent of the Democrats

of Iowa behind him. He got 10,000 votes there and 20,000 in New Hampshire, a month later. There will be a better turnout this time, possibly a much better one, but even Douglas Fraser, in tandem with Kennedy charisma, will not swamp the polls.

Grinnell is the centre of a very rich farming district. Iowa is well-to-do, but has also a fair share of light industry and one of the best small universities in the mid-West.

Governors tend to be more Democratic than Iowa, and the students like students across the nation, are strikingly less political than were their predecessors 10 years ago. This is probably unfortunate for Senator Kennedy.

The place is open to the currents of the wide world (it has been directly affected by the grain embargo) as well as to the winds from the North. Iowans tend to be grateful that they are far from the corruptions of the east coast, and the eccentricities of the west coast. Any tendency to smugness is buried in the realization of America's sudden vulnerability.

The price of heating oil and petrol has more than doubled since last winter and when the candidates have made their pitch about leadership and controlling inflation, this is the problem that they are asked about.

Mr Carter called the energy crisis the moral equivalent of war in 1977, and people here at last come to see that he was right.

So when they go to their caucuses to vote tonight, they will be choosing the man whom they think will best hold the line against further price increases, and who will do better in the 1980s than Mr Carter and his predecessors did in the seventies to keep the respect of the world.

Mr Reagan brought his audience to their feet on Saturday with the claim that he did not care if foreigners liked America, so long as they respected her. Time was that Americans wanted to be liked. Now they want to be respected, and some come over the price of heating oil.

Grinnell, 1,300 miles from the ocean, west and east, listening to the candidates and watching events, has discovered that these two objectives may be beyond their grasp, and is horrified at the discovery.

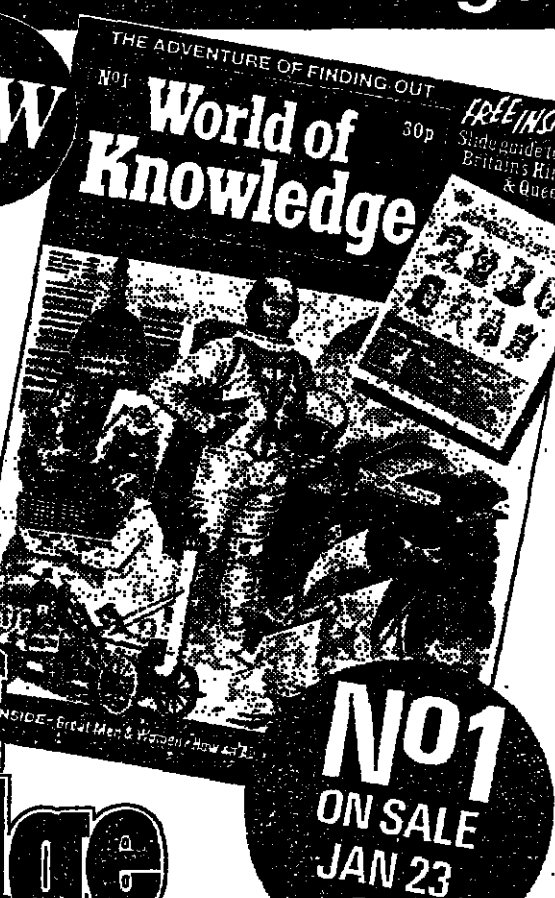
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مكتبة الأمل



## OVERSEAS

## Move to leave blacks out of S African constitution criticized

From Eric Marsden  
Johannesburg, Jan 21

Spokesmen of all South Africa's racial groups strongly criticized the Government's plans for a new constitution at a five-day hearing of the Schlebusch Commission in Cape Town, which has just ended.

The commission, headed by Mr. Alwyn Schlebusch, the Interior Minister, includes five members of opposition parties. Under the proposed new constitution, drawn up two years ago, there would be separate parliaments for the white, Indian and Coloured communities, but blacks would have to continue to express their political rights in the various black homelands.

The exclusion of blacks from the constitution has been the main stumbling block to acceptance of the new "dispensation" at Government preference to call it.

A memorandum by the Progressive Federal Party, the main opposition group in the present all-white parliament, submitted a memorandum to the commission on party policy, proposing a federal constitution on a geographical basis.

It was based on "the non-negotiable principles of full citizenship for all South Africans regardless of race, and no race domination or discrimination in any form."

There should be a universal adult franchise "at some future date", a multiracial federal parliament, state legislative assemblies open to all races, proportional representation at all levels of government, and a minority veto on the vital levels of decision-making.

The New Republic Party, which grew out of the former United Party, produced alternative proposals which it claimed would satisfy the aspirations of all races while removing white fears of domination by a "one man one vote" system.

The plurality of South African society must be recognized. All groups should govern themselves to the maximum extent possible and also have a say in matters of common interest.

One of the strongest attacks came from Dr. A. D. Wassenaar of the Sanlam Bank, a prominent Afrikaner businessman. He said that whites were being unrealistic if they thought they could keep control of the country in their hands forever. They should seek the most acceptable form of transition, aiming to preserve control in "educated, responsible hands, regardless of racial differences."

He proposed a constitution based on a "strictly qualified franchise, with three voters' rolls. Eighty-five per cent of MPs would be elected by voters on the main roll, with the highest educational and tax-paying qualifications.

Professor Ben Vosloo of Stellenbosch University, the influential Afrikaans school of political thought, said that to exclude blacks living in white urban areas from the constitutional plans was like Hamlet without the Prince. A Stellenbosch colleague Professor S. Terreblanche, thought that a whites-only parliament could no longer be defended.

The South African Indian Council submitted counter-proposals that, for an interim period of 10 years, there should be a single legislative assembly which, as well as whites, should have an agreed number of Indian, Coloured and Black representatives.

Dr. A. M. Moolia, the council's chairman, said there should ultimately be a unitary state patterned on a single common political society.

Inkatha, the Zulu cultural group which is South Africa's largest black organization, issued a strong call for a single state "with one defence force, one passport, one economy and one nationality for all South Africans."

Nearly everybody giving evidence has spoken of the need for urgent action, but this does not seem likely. Mr. Schlebusch pointed out yesterday that his commission has to hear evidence from more than 200 organizations and individuals, and has far to go before it can report.

## Canadians expel three Soviet officials

From John Best  
Ottawa, Jan 21

Three officials of the Soviet Embassy in Ottawa are to be expelled from Canada for espionage.

Miss Flora MacDonald, the External Affairs Minister, said today that the three had obtained classified information from an American citizen "in a sensitive position in his own country."

The American was not named but Miss MacDonald told a press conference that he was not in the military or civil services. He was, however, "in the kind of establishment that would have been utilized by the Government."

The three Soviet Embassy officials—Captain Igor Bardeev, military, naval and air attaché; Colonel Eduard Aleksanjan, assistant military attaché; and Mr. V. I. Sokolov, the military attaché's chauffeur—have to leave Canada within one week.

The expulsions came less than two years after the last big espionage case here, when 15 Soviet diplomats were sent home.

Miss MacDonald told reporters that an investigation by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police disclosed that within months of the expulsions in February, 1978, the Soviet Embassy had resumed "a pattern of activity violating basic standards of diplomatic behaviour."

The embassy had been repeatedly warned that Canada would not tolerate such activities.

The American citizen involved in the case received "substantial" payments for the information he supplied. Meetings between him and the three Soviet officials took place over a period of 16 months in the Ottawa area. "Traditional" signal arrangements were used as well as dead letter boxes.

The police worked on the case with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, who Miss MacDonald said were helped in their investigation by the American citizen. She said it was up to American authorities to decide whether to charge him.

Miss MacDonald said the Canadian Government "was particularly disturbed" that the Russians would use Canada as a base to carry out spy activities against the United States.

Mr. Alexander Yakovlev, the Soviet Ambassador, "of course denied" the espionage accusations when Miss MacDonald met him earlier today to inform him personally of the expulsions. He agreed, however, to convey Canada's concern to Moscow. "I think he was genuinely surprised," Miss MacDonald said.

She also said that the expulsion order was not related in any way to the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

## Fashion

by  
Prudence Glynn

Photographs by Sandra Nicolson

One of the ongoing criticisms of the menswear trade is that while it is all very well to be smart if you are slim and young, the older man and the larger man—both of whom may have more money or more inclination to spend, let me point out—are short on choice. In fact that situation has changed greatly over the past few years and I think these clothes confirm that. Pierre Sangen is a name new to me, though

since he has 1,700 outlets in this country which range from Harrods to "Owner-driver stores in the High Street." I should have noted him. Peter Sangen, who signs the collections, is the grandson of a master tailor of both men's and women's wear on Jersey and in 1971 he took over control of the company. Most of the clothes, and jerseys, are still made on the island with the rest on the mainland. Sangen has always offered style

plus size, since he runs from small through to a 44" chest. The winner of the Worshipful Company of Frame Knitters Gold Medal and the Silver Medal awarded by the City and Guilds in textiles at the Leicester College of Art and Technology in 1960, the 39-year-old Mr. Sangen, is in the right position to tell producers what he wants. What he wants now is a fully colour-co-ordinated and fashionably casual range "for men with

my sort of life style. Made easy to buy at the right sort of price". He has produced it for the autumn. Neat blouses, the right gilet, the right collar on the shirt, the right fabric, none too outé but pepping up the weekend world of the 25-plus executive no end. Now, buyers do see these clothes as a group and stock them as such. You will save a lot of high blood pressure cases by getting it together for them.

## Communists greet plan for 'China office' in Hongkong

From Richard Hughes  
Hongkong, Jan 21

Chinese Communist representatives in Hongkong have welcomed a recommendation by the Hongkong Advisory Committee on Diversification (ACD) that a special "China office" be established to consolidate growing cooperation with Canton authorities and joint industrial and investment projects.

The Hongkong Government has a role to play in facilitating a series of dialogues between the relevant trading and political authorities in China and the local and international business community", the ACD said.

"It must try to identify more closely opportunities for co-operative effort which should be followed up, and more clearly those requirements for public services and public works which flow from these opportunities."

At present contacts for joint cross-border ventures are discussed by Hongkong Government departments and Canton representatives or Peking resident companies in Hongkong like the China Resources Development, Ng Fung Hong, the Bank of China and the New China agency.

The proposed China office could work closely with the Hongkong Political Adviser's office and organize immediate consultations with visiting Chinese missions.

Resident Chinese Communist representatives have already passed on the ACD proposal to Peking and Canton, and indicated that the new office would certainly benefit both China and Hongkong.

Not surprisingly, the Chinese Nationalist press in Hongkong is criticizing the increased co-operation in communications, trade, investment and industry between Hongkong and China.

An editorial in the Kuomintang daily, *Hongkong Times*, today said that "Chinese Communists are gradually taking over Hongkong's markets and assimilating its export business. An economic crisis will soon confront Hongkong."

Hongkong authorities and international companies based in Hongkong do not treat this criticism seriously.

"The increasing use that is likely to be made of Hongkong as an outlet for China's exports and as a port through which China's imports are channelled will enhance Hongkong's re-emerging role as an entrepot," the ACD report points out.

"A number of manufacturing enterprises have already been established by Hongkong firms in border areas recently designated by Canton under compensation trade arrangements and many other ventures are under active investigation."

"Also Hongkong's existing role as an outlet for China's oil products will be developed by the discovery of new oil fields in the South China Sea."

## Others may be involved in Tokyo spy ring

Tokyo, Jan 21.—Several other people connected with Japan's Self Defence Force may be involved in the recently uncovered Soviet spy ring, security officials said tonight.

Authorities regard the unmasking of the spy ring, allegedly led by a retired major-general, Mr. Yukihisa Miyunaga, as the worst espionage scandal in Japan since the Second World War.

Mr. Miyunaga, aged 58, and two serving officers were arrested last Friday and charged with passing military secrets to the Soviet Union.

Colonel Yuri Kozlov, a military attaché at the Soviet Embassy believed to be the contact for the spy ring, flew to Moscow with his wife less than 24 hours after the arrests.

Leading article, page 15

## Gandhi attack on rich nations

From Richard Wigg  
Delhi, Jan 21

Mrs Indira Gandhi struck an impatient, nationalistic tone when she spoke today at a United Nations conference intended to thrash out with the rich industrialized countries ways to improve the pace of industrialization among the "have-nots".

Making her first important speech as the new Prime Minister, Mrs Gandhi said the rich countries must understand that the industrialization of the developing world "is an inevitable process of history."

She said: "If we seek help it is not as charity but rather as part of a process to undo the injustices of ages and bring greater equality and security."

What was needed for the rich countries was "a more determined political will".

She said the existing system, "with the world divided between the industrialized haves and have-nots, no longer commands acceptance."

President Reddy, inaugurating the third conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (Unido) thought, too, that the world's present political crisis stemmed in large measure from the "inherent instability of an economic order which is not capable of responding to the stimulus of change."

Dr Kurt Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary General, told the conference for this year could be decisive for the international economic relations of the world.

ground of a deteriorating world economic climate, with south Asia the centre of tense political confrontations which could easily force the developing countries of the region to turn to money and credit from industrialized countries to costly defence.

Many delegates from the richer countries fear the three-week session may turn into another of those contests between the industrialized and the oil-rich Middle East countries on ways of achieving a sufficient pace of advance by the developing countries to win "at least" 25 per cent of the world's industrial output by the year 2000.

The Lima target "set when Unido was nowhere near being achieved. If the pace set so far is continued on the most optimistic estimates, the experts have calculated, only half the target figure will be achieved by the end of the century."

At present, the developing countries, where 70 per cent of the world's population live, account for nine per cent of world industrial output.

Mr. Salim Ahmed Salim, president of the United Nations General Assembly, said today that the situation is even worse, that the developing world within itself 10 countries have, since 1966, accounted for 70 per cent of the growth in industrialization of the entire Third World.

Often these countries too had suffered from "unproductive industrialization" he said, lacking capital goods

industries to make them self-reliant and their economic progress self-generating.

True industrialization for these countries would mean providing employment for the population and satisfying basic needs.

Dr Waldheim, drawing on some of the background studies prepared for the conference, argued the present industrial restructuring in developed countries should be seized upon as an opportunity to incorporate a more equitable and efficient world economic order.

India, like many other developing nations, has seized eagerly on recent OECD and EEC studies which emphasize how the developing world can provide not only markets but extra jobs if the richer nations do not shortsightedly close their doors.

Dr Abd El-Rahman Khane, Unido's executive director, later told the conference what was needed was bold leadership and "not off-repeated excuses" that proposals were politically impracticable. Evidently he had the industrialized "haves" in mind.

Time was running out, he said, for decisions were needed from this conference and from the General Assembly special session later this year on a new international economic order.

Dr Khane estimated that developing countries alone by the year 2000 might require as much oil as was now consumed by the entire world.

Finding new supplies of energy from within the developing countries is likely to be another theme of the Delhi meeting.



It is popularly supposed that women are the valuer sex, in a constant tizzy about gained ounces or unlost pounds and causing havoc in shops by their determination to squeeze themselves into one size too small and then take it back because it does not fit or castigating the salesgirls who are dazed at the prospect of trying to fit so non-cooperative a shape.

On the first point, I am not so sure. Circumnavigating Lord Goodman at a crowded party I remarked pleasantly that he always made me feel like Vasco de Gama. He gave me, I thought, a distinctly hooded look. Similarly, in paying the ultimate compliment, as I thought, by telling a man with glossy dark brown hair, a fine aristocratic head and staunch other proportions that he reminded me of my horse I floated a lead balloon; and a project undertaken in rather youth to support my theory that very tall men are silly; big men nice; stout men shrewd; short men industrious; and ugly men best company also flopped.

Somehow the subjects sensed what I was up to and one and all they melted away into the greenwood, or possibly the Garrick Club, like so many Merrie Men.

On the second point one must make a division. Men are both much more demanding, refusing such stock answers as "There's no call for that" (how do they know, if they have not got it?) insisting on properly trained service—and getting it, and far more conscious of quality and value than women shoppers.

But with a bespoke suit (this means you get fittings) from the Savile Row end of the trade costing anything from £500 to £1,000 where does the funny-sized man shop?

He shops at Marks and Spencer, the first store to introduce matching jackets and trousers as opposed to separates. Some competitors think that this can lead to disparate colouring between delivery batches. M & S assure, no. Modern technology has enabled them to perfect a consistent colour, so if you can only afford one half of the suit this month and the other next you need not worry. Incidentally, suits still comprise the majority of the whole menswear market. The reason is obvious. In times of economic uncertainty a suit suggests that (a) you are employed, even by an advertising

agency—remember all those flowered shirts and flowered ties they were responsible for in the Sixties?

The M & S shopper starts out on a £45 duo in a polyester/wool blend with a hopsack texture. "The trouble with most manufacturers is that they seem to think all men are six feet plus, or if he's shorter he's going to be older and have a paunch."

Not borne out by Marks & Spencer's best sellers. Their man is 5ft 9in or 5ft 10in, with a chest 39in to 40in, or 41-42. His waist is 34in or 36in. Three lengths of jacket add up to a permutation of 200 options (I will take their word for it) and having got that job via the £45 number he shifts into the upper echelons in all wool at £65.

If he is tall and thin and plays golf—all that stooping, chill on the kidneys from the gap at the back—his best bet is High and Mighty, a chain of 20 shops in this country (they are also in Germany, Holland and America) which has most unfairly become associated in the public mind as only fit for fatties, who are so grateful for anything in which to upholster their sofa-sized persons that they will dispense with fashion.

I do see that if you offer a size range up to 58in chest and call it King Size you are liable to get stuck with a lot of stale jokes about King Kong. High and Mighty started out as a mail order business in the North in 1956, recognized a need in the market, and in 1959 opened in Edgware Road, London. Every branch has a tailor on the premises to do swift alterations.

I was more interested in the tall problem. With a population better fed and better exercised we are getting taller, but still slim with it. What does this new race of gods use for cover. Again, it seems, High and Mighty, who can manage up to 7ft 6in in an emergency, though at the risk of introducing just that note of levity they dread, one must suppose that that alteration kept the tailor up all night. They also say that they try very hard to inject a modern fashion style into their ranges for young, tall and slim men, which may be why they have failed to please the high and mighty gentlemen I consulted on these matters—6ft 7in and belted and no less; perhaps it is too fashionable for some. He says he has no problem with socks, shoes and underwear. Everything else has to be made.

Most probably if he is only somewhat out of the norm he will shop at Austin Reed, which has 44 branches in this country. Austin Reed ran off him a choice of 2,500 suits, a made to measure (which means no fittings) service, alterations and above all a total commitment to super service.

"We rely," says Peter Reed, who heads the business now comprising Chester, Barrie, Honourbail, Harry Hall and Stephens on reliable, experienced salesmen. They are crucial. He agreed that most men have only an approximate idea of what size they are. Hence the need to assess the customer swiftly and tactfully.

I wanted to know why American stores seem to be able to fit everyone from the stoat-skin to the grotesque.

"American stores offer greater depth in size, but lesser range in style, and remember that they are only just changing from the idea that all that counts is comfort. That to us would look sloppy, not fitted. The average Brooks Brothers suit is just a box." Austin Reed, with a high style end, Cue, and such an enormous selection can afford to be adventurous, engaging Bill Gibb for example to style a range.

Mr Reed believes that men do not get better service than women, but that women would like that same service restored. To this end, Austin Reed is planning to open a womenswear area in the Regent Street branch.

But to come back to the men I started out with. Not being privy to the secrets of Lord Goodman's home wardrobe (I envisage paisley primed claret foulard, with plain lapels and some piping) I can only advise that in public he is wrapped in the conventional subfusc, a sharp contrast to Mr George Howard, a man of stature to match his wonderful castle. He is far from subfusc. I seem to remember cerulean blue with a contrasting saffron shirt and, for something in the evening, the immemorial answer, the kaftan complete with covetable beads. As for the man who is so cross about the analogy with my horse, he dresses on practical, washable, light fit-any-size trousers from the catering suppliers of Soho.

PS on big feet. Magnus of 2 High Street, Harpole, Northampton NN7 4DH, supply their customers by mail order.

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## SPORT

## Football

# Liverpool may have to wait a little longer for the League Cup

By Norman Fox  
Football Correspondent

A lot has happened to the clubs involved in tonight's delayed Football League Cup semi-final round first leg matches since the draw was made early in December when only Liverpool knew they were safely through. Liverpool themselves have gained only one point from their last two games, Nottingham Forest have rediscovered themselves, Swindon Town finally beat Arsenal, and Wolverhampton Wanderers have taken a second replay by Grimsby Town.

None of this drastically alters the first conclusion which is that the matches, between Liverpool and Swindon v Wolves, were likely to be close runs, especially as the ties are played over two legs, the second being on February 13. If any prediction made at the time is even sounder now, it is that Liverpool's sense of frustration at being paired with the team who knocked them out of the European Cup last season and beat them in the League Cup at the City Ground in September, is justified.

Saturday's 2-1 win at Leeds showed that Forest's recreation after several weeks in the doldrums was almost complete. But there is something of a mystery concerning Forest's intentions. George, who is on loan from Southampton, is thought to be ineligible for the League Cup and the FA Cup. Liverpool again on Saturday so O'Neill regains a place tonight.

Presumably, without George and Bowles, both Cup-tied, Forest will have Francis in the attacking position where he finished on Saturday.

Covebury City's defeat of Liverpool was deserved but the champions are entitled to an off day and as these occur so infrequently it would be foolish to draw conclusions. Indeed, if Liverpool are at their most dangerous in the few minutes after conceding a goal, equally they expect to punish the team they face after defeat.

But Forest know them well and play them sensibly. The League Cup is the only domestic trophy that Liverpool have not won, but they may have to wait for a year in which they avoid Forest.

If there is an occasional weak-

ness in Liverpool's make up it is when they become frustrated by nature, to dominate. Dalglish, though he played on Saturday, became angry at his failure to score and in the end lost control in the penalty area where he is usually so positive. On previous occasions Forest have been the aggressors, but Dalglish under control while matching Liverpool's work and pace. There is no clever tactical secret.

There is ample incentive for both sides but if defeat sharpens resolve perhaps Liverpool's hunger will be the greater. It was Forest who beat them in the League Cup final of 1978 and that may count for more than the one-sided defeat at the City ground in September. At that time Liverpool were suffering from a slow start, having taken only seven points from seven games.

The pitch at Nottingham is expected to be playable but heavy. There was surface water yesterday but the ground staff were confident that they could clear it. Even so, the ground is bound to be slippery as lead on defensive mistakes. A lot will depend on the central defenders who will be marking fast forwards. Burns has just completed a two-month suspension for Forest, but Hansen, the young Liverpool centre back, is quicker now and saved his team from a goal on Saturday.

Wolves hope that the former England captain, Hughes, will be fit to play at Swindon but fear that his knee injury will be aggravated by his former club. Liverpool, even if Hughes is unable to appear, the Wolves team will be stronger for the return of the player who has served a suspension.

Swindon, who were without a match last Saturday have solved their problems by beating Tottenham Hotspur more than the team they play in the FA Cup next Saturday.

## FA bring charge of disrepute against Walsh

Ian Walsh, the Crystal Palace striker, has been charged with bringing the game into disrepute by the Football Association. The FA move follows an incident after the FA Cup replay defeat by Swansea City at Cardiff last week when Walsh was accused of kicking the referee, Eric Read, for allegedly arguing.

Mr Read said he twice warned Walsh to go away and when Walsh persisted, produced the red card. Walsh said he was not warned.

Billy Bremner, the Doncaster Rovers manager, faces a similar charge under FA rule 35. Mr Bremner is charged with disrepute, for allegedly making comments to the on-field referee, Eric Read, after the Boxing Day match at Walsall.

## Last night's results

FA Cup  
Third round replay  
Walsall 2, Rochdale 2 (A. 0-0)  
Walsall 2, Rochdale 2 (A. 0-0)

Fourth division  
Petersburg 10, 0  
Barnet 1, 0  
Barnet 1, 0

Southern League: Cup Fourth round  
Altrincham 1, 0  
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## Husband and wife team with a baby and an Olympic skating title to take care of

# Russian couple put politics on ice

From John Hennessey  
Göteborg, Jan 21

Fears that the threatened boycott of the Olympic Games might rub off on the Winter Games to be held at Lake Placid next month, are not shared by Irina Rodina and her husband, Alexander Zaitsev, who will be defending their pairs skating title against the Americans and world champions, Tai Babilonia and Randy Gardner.

This event, promised in any case to be the highlight of the whole Winter Olympics programme in view of the 10-year dominance of Miss Rodina (with two partners) and of the spellbinding performance of the American pair in last year's world championships in Vienna at a time when Miss Rodina was nursing a four-month-old baby in Moscow.

When the point was put to her last night, Miss Rodina answered that she and her husband had competed many times in the United States, and always had a successful record. In skating, she said, people were concerned only with the performance on the ice.

Further pressed about the special circumstances that might obtain in Lake Placid, Miss Rodina answered that she believed that President Carter's pronouncements recently represented the view of the American public as a whole, and that the skating fraternity, anyway, weren't the Olympic Games historically intended to put an end to wars and bring peace.

Putting political considerations apart, Miss Rodina felt that the highly charged atmosphere might act against American interest, which was a question of character. In such circumstances a competitor in any sport might be inspired to greater achievements. On the other hand he or she might crumble under the pressure of national expectation. Furthermore, she said, she was always harder to defend a title than win one in the first place.

## Golf

# Mitchell says goodbye to Monday morning blues

From Peter Ryde  
Phoenix, Arizona, Jan 21

The American golf circuit has started with two first-time winners. Jegg Mitchell, who played in the weekend's Phoenix Open, and Craig Stadler, the week before, never taken first prize, in this case a \$100,000 prize, to go to go before they beat last year's total of 12 first-time winners.

Such results are all the more likely at this time of year before the likes of Nicklaus and Watson come out of their lairs. Mitchell is a confident and even after his final round of 67 he was of the opinion that had anyone made the gap narrower he would have been in a different story.

So pronounced was the fall-away of those around him that Rick Massengale, who was no better than fourth, said he had never drawn up to second place with a final 65. Weather on the final day was cloudless, but the drizzling of rain had made the half-way confidence of some and enabled established regulars, such as Crenshaw and Fegley, to close up behind the leaders.

Massengale also had plenty to smile about. He made more yesterday than in the past two seasons together. A five-week lay-off and a knee injury had made him a laughing stock, but he was too hot at the top to be worried by a change which amazed him as much as anyone. But he was going to be too nervous and then found he was not. "I knew I wasn't nervous," he said, "because when I am my hands hold the putter like a vice. They are finely shaped hands and they did not tremble as he holed two putts of 15ft in the last six holes. There had been mistakes but fate was kind to him and left him an easy way out each time.

A total of 82 made the half-way cut and played through the first and tenth tees throughout the tournament. This applies only to the first stage of the tournament when there is less light. It also made possible an early finish, so that play did not interfere with television broadcast of the Super Bowl, which sounds like a chief's specialty but which is one of those football climaxes on a national scale.

LEADING SCORES: 1. J. Mitchell, 69, 67, 69, 67, 272; 2. R. Massengale, 69, 71, 72, 68, 270; 3. J. Fegley, 69, 71, 72, 68, 270; 4. J. Crenshaw, 69, 71, 72, 68, 270; 5. J. Stadler, 69, 71, 72, 68, 270; 6. J. Nicklaus, 69, 71, 72, 68, 270; 7. J. Watson, 69, 71, 72, 68, 270; 8. J. Foulkes, 69, 71, 72, 68, 270; 9. J. Bickel, 69, 71, 72, 68, 270; 10. J. Lauer, 69, 71, 72, 68, 270.

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# Evolution has a sure way of correcting faulty design.



Arguably the worst-designed creature of all time, the Brontosaurus literally ate itself out of existence.

So much vegetation did he need to fuel his huge body, he had to eat non-stop round the clock.

But since he could not venture out of his lake on to dry land without collapsing under his own weight, he finally starved in his own empty larder.

Thus providing a spectacular warning of the dangers of conspicuous over-consumption and total inability to adapt to change.

## THE NEW DINOSAURS.

With its phenomenal appetite and seemingly rigid design, the motor car could be overtaken by evolution rather quicker than the ill-fated Brontosaurus.

Fortunately, however, we at Audi have never been in the dinosaur business. We have always looked to the future and designed our cars accordingly.

Take the 3-year-old Audi 100 5 cylinder. One of the first cars to acknowledge that the world did not contain a bottomless oil well.

Outwardly conventional, it was actually a most unusual beast. It contained, for instance, the world's first 5 cylinder petrol engine.

Smooth as a six yet miserly as a four, it looked ahead to a time when the desire for power would have to be reconciled with the need for economy.

A time like now, in fact.

Its shape, the result of 250 hours in a wind tunnel, combined low drag with ample accommodation for five. Thereby saving fuel without sacrificing life's creature comforts.

By using tough plastics when others were still using metal, we cut

weight (and therefore fuel consumption) without losing strength. And in our search for a safer car, we managed to lighten it even further.

Since the Timoshenko girders in the Audi 100 rely on controlled collapse rather than brute strength to repel impact, they are both lighter and safer than conventional girders. Thus we were able to save your spirit while taking care of your body.

And finally, because it was clear that maintenance costs would rocket as oil stocks sank, we designed a car that would give you fewer bills to pay.

With 10,000 mile main service intervals and a six year warranty against rusting through from inside, the Audi 100 looks better today than it did three years ago.

## A NEW LOOK AND A LOOK AHEAD.

You may have noticed that the car you see here looks a little sleeker than the Audi 100 you know.

We have, in fact, polished up the head and rear light design, given it a new grill, enclosed spotlamps in the front bumper and wrapped both bumpers round to the wheel arches.

But the basic design we haven't altered at all. That we got right three years ago.

Leaving us free to design today the cars that will survive tomorrow.



**The Audi 100 five cylinder.**  
**Audi The car for now.**

OFFICIAL FUEL ECONOMY FIGURES FOR THE AUDI 100 5 CYLINDER: URBAN CYCLE ARE 18.5 MPG (25.3 LITRES/100 KM) AND 20.2 MPG (24.0 LITRES/100 KM) AUTOMATIC. AT A CONSTANT 75 MPH, 32.8 MPG (18.1 LITRES/100 KM) AUTOMATIC. AND 31.0 MPG (18.8 LITRES/100 KM) AUTOMATIC. ALLOY WHEELS SHOWN ARE AN OPTIONAL EXTRA. FOR MORE INFORMATION WRITE TO AUDI MARKETING DEPARTMENT, Vauxhall Avenue, Luton, Bedfordshire, LU1 3EX. TEL: 0455 555555.

AND 31.0 MPG (18.8 LITRES/100 KM) AUTOMATIC. AT A CONSTANT 75 MPH, 25.0 MPG (11.0 LITRES/100 KM) MANUAL AND 24.3 MPG (11.6 LITRES/100 KM) AUTOMATIC. FOR MORE INFORMATION WRITE TO AUDI MARKETING DEPARTMENT, Vauxhall Avenue, Luton, Bedfordshire, LU1 3EX. TEL: 0455 555555.



Bernard Levin

# As the Labour enquiry begins: enquire within

The Labour Party's commission of enquiry, which is bound to have a very significant effect on the organization of the party, and indeed on its very nature, holds its first meeting today. The provisional list of membership is already drawn up, and that being so, I thought my readers might be interested in learning a little more about the views of one particular member of it; to be precise, his views in relation to the Soviet Union and its government and political system. The member in question is Mr. Alex Kitson, a senior official of the Transport and General Workers Union and a member of the NEC of the Labour Party, and he seems to have unqualified admiration for the Soviet Union, which he has expressed in some detail in speeches and interviews on Moscow Radio. I have a considerable collection of the texts of such broadcasts, and I propose today to subject Mr. Kitson's views on this interesting and important topic to some scrutiny.

Mr. Kitson went to the Soviet Union for the celebrations of the sixtieth anniversary of the Russian Revolution, in November 1977, as the representative of the Labour Party. At the time, one of his comments caused some stir in Britain. He said: "I am pleased to visit a country where the situation differs from that in my own." The Labour Party's NEC even discussed the matter, and naturally concluded that nothing Mr. Kitson said was in any way reprehensible. Perhaps the NEC should have enquired a little further. But perhaps they did not know, or at least they did not discover, some material that even they could not ignore. The reason I raise the

matter now is twofold: first, as I say, I think the country has a right to know the views of a member of the Labour Party's commission of enquiry on the day it starts work, and second, the material I have gathered proves a far more intensive understanding of Mr. Kitson's attitude to the Soviet Union than do the few words published here at the time they were made. For during his visit, he spoke many times on Soviet radio programmes for listeners overseas. Sometimes, he was fed questions that enabled him to express his admiration of the Soviet Union, and sometimes there was no more than an introduction by an announcer before Mr. Kitson went on to express his admiration of the Soviet Union, but whichever method was adopted the admiration was the same. We begin with a claim that brings to mind Bertie Wooster's reaction on hearing some devastating news from Jeeves: "I inspected my imagination; it bogged."

When you think that the Industrial Revolution took place in Western Europe some 150 years ago and we are still not getting full potential of the industrial revolution, and the Soviet Union has in 60 years done more than has been done in Westernized countries in 150 years.

We continue with something a good deal less amusing. As everyone knows by now one of the most cruel forms of Soviet Catch-22 used against dissidents or those who wish to emigrate is to dismiss them from their employment (this is automatic for anyone who dares to mention the word "human rights") make it impossible for them to get other work of any kind, and then prosecute them for

not working. The fear of unemployment in the Soviet Union is, therefore, not confined to the ordinary kind (which is widespread, though disguised and denied), but exists in a much more intense and agonising form. Mr. Kitson must know this as well as anyone. Yet this is his false and brazen gloss on it:

I think that that's a statement of fact, that Breshnev made, that the one thing that any individual fears is not to be able to work. This is one fear that a man has. It's a fear in the capitalist system that prevails that there are so many unemployed. Now that's no fear in the Soviet Union. Everybody has got the right to work and everybody gets the opportunity to work. There is one thing that the capitalist system can't condemn a socialist state like the Soviet Union for, the guarantee on the right to work. Nobody in this country who wants to work can't be afforded that right to work.

That is by no means all. Mr. Kitson is a trade union official; in some of these broadcasts he is at pains to stress that his involvement with the British Labour movement is from the trade union, not the political, side. It might have been thought, therefore, that he would be particularly concerned at the fact that there are no trade unions in the Soviet Union, that any attempt to form one would be repressed with the greatest brutality, and that when a group of Soviet workers, at just about the time of Mr. Kitson's visit, tried to combine to represent themselves (in, for instance, safety standards in Soviet industry) their leader was put in a madhouse, and the others imprisoned or sentenced to internal exile. But this is what a senior official of a free British trade union said of the system in a country



Mr. Kitson: thoughts from abroad.

where no free trade unions are allowed:

Well, we have come here for the 60th anniversary of the Soviet Revolution and I am sure, as far as the workers in the United Kingdom are concerned, that they welcome this revolution in the Soviet Union and we wish them very well and everything that they have done, and we wish them that they have maintained, and also workers' control, which is important to the British workers. And I would say this on behalf of British trade unions, that we are still striving to achieve the kind of things that the workers in the Soviet Union have achieved in maintaining and achieving control of industry, control

of the economic situation in their country to the best interest of all the workers in the Soviet Union. . . . The other point I would like to make is the development of the trade union movement. It has . . . played a great part in the development of socialism in the Soviet Union. The trade unions are responsible for the welfare of the people in the main and they have played no mean part in ensuring that everything that is of advantage to the workers is given to the workers and I wish them well. I hope that in the next 60 years that the developments that they have given to the people will be as good as the first 60 years and I have no doubt that it will be so.

After that, it is difficult to be shocked, or even surprised, by Mr. Kitson's description of an educational system based on the most rigid censorship in the world and the most narrowly conceived educational theories:

They have problems in the Soviet Union and maybe not as many problems as we have got, but their educational system for youth is something that has got to be admired. And now for the subject of peace, and the Soviet Union's role in the keeping of it. Here was Mr. Kitson (this was, of course, long before the invasion of Afghanistan, which Mr. Kitson assures me, while standing by everything I quote him as saying, he does not approve of) in a country which holds down by force a huge empire in Eastern Europe, which has colonized by force large parts of Africa, which crushed by force the Hungarian Revolution, and whose frontiers with death for anyone who tries to flee. One might think that he would at any rate not go out of his way to praise the Soviet

Union as a land of peace. If so, however, one would be greatly mistaken:

Lenin based his policies on peace and . . . peace is an important factor and the Soviet Union is playing a great part in trying to establish the fact that peace is one of the things that is important to the Third World. If you have a look at what has happened in the Soviet Union in 60 years and how they have attempted to develop relationships, then I'm sure you must agree that their interest and the main interest is to maintain peace. . . . Peace is all important to the Soviet Union. . . . But there are forces in this world and they are strong forces, but so far as they are concerned they would attempt to do everything to destroy what has been built up, not only in the Soviet Union but in socialist countries and also by socialist parties throughout the world. I think that the Lenin decree of 60 years ago—it was good then. It's better now, because the forces of war and the forces of armaments are something that is really frightening and fearful.

But perhaps the most disgraceful of all Mr. Kitson's comments (the "perhaps" is necessary because the choice is wide) concerns the subject of human rights. In the most repressive society in the world, in which no one has any rights at all against the arbitrary actions of rulers who refuse to be bound by any code of law or right whatever, and who cannot force back this oppression and persecution of those who disagree with them, the empty laws that gather dust in their cruel farce of a statute book, this is what Mr. Kitson has to say on the subject: The new Soviet Constitution is something that when it comes into force will give the rights to ordinary people, and especially to young people, in

the running of their country and in the running of their own affairs. This is very important. It's something that has got to be looked at from one of the points of view of the world, especially the capitalist systems in the world, as to how you can have the opportunity to have a say in the running of your own affairs. . . . The new Soviet constitution has given wider powers to the ordinary individual. It's given wider powers in many aspects, in social aspects, in trade union aspects, and I would feel that we can learn many lessons from the attitude that has been struck from a planned society. This is the advantage that the Soviet Union has got over the capitalist system. . . . something like the right of the individual to determine his own destiny. That's what is happening here; that's the kind of thing that we have got to fight for, that's the attitude that we should be striking, and I would impress upon my fellow trade unionists in the United Kingdom and all over the world that the opportunity should be given to study the situation that is now developing in the Soviet Union.

And now this fawning admirer of the Soviet system has been appointed to enquire into the workings of Britain's Labour Party—Labour Party!—and within an hour or two of your reading these words he will have begun the job. Perhaps, in the circumstances, there may be an extra, unintended meaning in another of the comments he made on Moscow Radio:

I would say that the relationship that is now developing between the Soviet Union and the British Labour Party can do nothing but good for peace, for international cooperation and also, of course, for the development of relationships between workers.

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## How the European Parliament can help home governments

In the backlash of Mrs. Thatcher's triumph at the polls 60 Conservatives were elected to the European Parliament last June. This reborn institution met for the first time at the inaugural ceremony in Strasbourg in July.

We chose a president, and selected members of our 15 specialist committees and their chairmen. Our recess ended in early September. Before Christmas the parliament had rejected the 1980 budget by an overwhelming vote, and the Conservatives made up an important part.

Such momentum, built up so quickly, is exhausting and exhilarating for those involved. Few commentators expected so much coherence and determination so soon: many parliamentarians could not wholly believe that we were ready to reject the budget until we had done it. The painful journey to Strasbourg suddenly seemed worthwhile.

In contrast, the House of Commons was elected in May 1979, but failed even to decide the membership of its select committees by the time the budget committee of the European Parliament—composed of nine nationalities speaking six languages—was moving towards recommending rejection of the budget.

The European parliament's vertiginous advance can only increase the chances of tension between Tories at home and members of the European Democratic group at Strasbourg. Sometimes it may seem to Conservative members of the House of Commons that MEPs are doing nothing at all to support Mrs. Thatcher in her Government's labours.

My message is that the European parliament is moving in

do not know how we work or what we do.

Many of the problems of linkage are simply the consequence of a novel constitutional development, whereby British representatives sit in a powerful international parliament, and any form of tie to the British Government.

Labour members of the European parliament do not have this special relationship with the Government. Indeed, they have a new forum in which to tease the Tories about citizenship, women's rights, and the like. Probably their need to placate the party at home provides them with their own worries. Relationships between Euro-Tories and the rest of the Conservative Party at home are, on the whole, very amicable.

The longer term tensions are quite different and harder to relax. Indeed British politicians are probably the least equipped (except the Danes) of any in the parliament to grapple with the consequences of the elected European parliament. British political tradition is shackled to the doctrine of the sovereignty of Parliament, a doctrine which permits an extreme government to bring back the Star Chamber of the House of Lords.

Thus the Whitehall-Westminster cleavage finds it hard to see the European parliament as anything but intrusive and threatening or impertinent and irrelevant.

Partisanship is not the issue. Members of the European parliament have not stopped being British, nor do we wish to forget our heritage. Still less do I cast aside 10 years of membership of the House of Lords, the institution which has taught me most and of which I am fond.

My message is that the European parliament is moving in

evitably towards the full exercise of its considerable powers, and that we should welcome such progress as the enhancement of political accountability in the European Community.

The reorganisation of the Commons finances, accompanied by a reassessment of the amount spent on agriculture, are major British interests. The reduction of the British contribution will only come about if the present system can be shown to work against the wider interests of all member states, because it threatens the ability of the EEC to survive, let alone grow.

The parliament, egged on by the British, has helped paint the essential backdrop for Mrs. Thatcher, and her ministerial envoys now hastening round the capitals of the continent, to prepare for the February/March summit.

But what next? Will the parliament set off on a federal rampage?

As the Italian presidency will recognize, the parliament must continue to steer the budget in the direction laid down. Then the Commission should be sacked as soon as possible, as it has run out of vitality and lost any vestige of collegiate spirit. At some point soon, members should refuse to meet in Strasbourg.

Further on, there will be differences of view between the British Government and the European parliament, and differences of emphasis between Conservatives in Britain and the European Democratic group. Such clashes are necessary and healthy. Jaundiced observers should note that 16 Frenchmen have been elected to the European parliament, and that the French government has been asked to pay for the European parliament's expenses.

A start has also been made with preparations for next month's election. This is essentially the *raison d'être* for Lord Soames being in Rhodesia. If an election can be held which is free and fair, then he can go back to London in March in the knowledge that he has fulfilled the task he was sent to achieve. Britain will have finally got rid

of the Rhodesia problem, and the Rhodesians will be neither his responsibility nor Britain's.

The list of changes and reforms is an impressive one. However, where he is now coming in for criticism is over some of his actions in the internal political sphere. In particular, he has been accused of being biased against the two parties that form the Patriotic front guerrilla alliance, especially Mr. Robert Mugabe's Zanu (PF) organization, and of showing a clear preference for the more conservative internal parties such as Bishop Abel Muzorewa's United African National Council (UANC).

There is no doubt that some of the criticisms against Lord Soames are justified. For example, Zanu (PF) and Mr. Joshua Nkomo's Zapu (now confusingly known simply as the Patriotic Front) are clearly trying to gain political mileage by continually harping on about the activities of the security forces auxiliaries (Pfumlo Revanhu).

There is some basis to their complaints. The auxiliaries were a political force when they were originally established 18 months ago and there is little doubt they are favourably disposed to the former government of Bishop Muzorewa.

To allow such a force, whose discipline is none too good, to be deployed in remote parts of the country in the name of maintaining law and order (and usually out of sight of the Commonwealth monitoring force) is hardly in keeping with the spirit of the Lancaster House agreement.

The British position is that it is more important first to ensure the ceasefire is made more effective by seeing that guerrillas who are not in assembly areas are made to go there or dealt with in other ways. Once this is achieved then attention can be turned to the auxiliaries.

## Lord Soames keeps his balance on the Rhodesian tightrope

In the final analysis all he can do is to use his powers of persuasion

In fact the British would like to curb the activities of the auxiliaries (and disciplinary action has been taken in certain cases), but the command structure of the Rhodesian forces, on whom Lord Soames' administration is almost totally dependent for maintaining law and order, has made it clear that the activities of recalcitrant guerrillas must be dealt with first before they are prepared to bring the auxiliaries to heel.

A similar situation exists with the South African forces, numbering between 150 and 200, who are positioned inside Rhodesia within a seven-mile radius of Beitbridge. Lord Soames is clearly embarrassed by the row that has been provoked by the admission that he has admitted to South African force to be there, but he had to balance this against insistence by the Rhodesians (supported by South Africa) that they should remain.

The question of the South Africans is indicative of the constraints under which Lord Soames is having to operate. Although he has full legislative and executive powers, he is dependent on the existing Rhodesian military and civil administration to carry out his orders. To ensure their cooperation he sometimes has to dilute or even hold back on actions he might otherwise have wanted to take.

It is a precarious balancing act, made all the more so because he has no real muscle

to back up the extensive powers that are vested in him. The Rhodesian administration, predominantly white and Rhodesian Front-supporting, has little love for the British and even less appreciation for moves which are seen as being favourable towards Mr. Mugabe and Mr. Muzorewa's political fortunes.

In the final analysis all Lord Soames can do is to use his powers of persuasion—which are admittedly considerable—to get things done.

So far he has managed to walk a tightrope fairly well. The Rhodesians have kept more or less in line and the degree of criticism from the Patriotic Front parties and from outside has not yet become so strong as to force him to act differently. In fact he could probably go on without a greater degree of criticism from the black nationalists and their backers because he knows there is little more they can do than shout.

The bulk of the guerrilla armies are already grouped in 14 assembly areas and could be dealt with very quickly if they tried to move away from these points to resume fighting. Lord Soames and his party officials have all returned and have so far gone out of their way to appear reasonable and cooperative. Most of Mr. Mugabe's party leadership has also returned (although not yet Mr. Mugabe himself) and also claim to be determined to take part in next month's elections, although the British say they are being far less reasonable and cooperative. Most of Mr. Mugabe's men.

But most important of all is that Zambia and Mozambique have shown, by rushing to normalize relations with Rhodesia, they are determined to see the settlement work. Mozambique in particular has been praised by the British for being "helpful". So it seems likely that if either of the Patriotic Front leaders wanted to pull out of the Lancaster House agreement now, their backers

would not let them.

It remains to be seen whether Lord Soames can sustain his Houdini act for another six weeks. As the election approaches the pressures will build up enormously. Violence and intimidation are already rife in the black townships and will certainly get worse. Everybody will be crying foul.

Lord Soames has warned that he intends to use all his powers to ensure a peaceful election. There have been hints aimed at Zanu (PF) that he might have a party which is consistently found guilty of acts of violence. Observers of a Machiavellian frame of mind believe that Lord Soames, sensing a surge of pro-Zanu (PF) sentiments around the country might take such a step to prevent Zanu (PF) from winning the election. This would not only be a most unwise move it makes but probably an unnecessary one as well.

There are growing signs of a move to isolate Zanu (PF) by bringing the other more "moderate" parties closer together. Contacts have already been made between Mr. Nkomo and Mr. James Chikerema, leader of the small Zimbabwe Democratic Party, and it is only a matter of time until similar talks take place between Mr. Nkomo and his arch rival, Bishop Muzorewa.

The two men have a strong dislike for each other, but they could overcome this by realizing that the only way they can stop Zanu (PF) winning the election is by becoming allies. A coalition between Mr. Nkomo, Bishop Muzorewa, Mr. Chikerema and the 20 whites in Parliament would be virtually unbeatable. Zanu (PF) will have to win 45 of the 80 black seats to be sure of forming a government by itself and there would be few people around at present who would put any money on the party winning such a landslide victory.

Nicholas Ashford

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## A prow round the sales

I went to the sales at the week end with a skinny-eyed companion. Mr. Bill Butterfield, a senior trading standards officer with Westminster City Council and has all the West End stores, and countless other shops, on his patch. He was tutored in the arts of rogues from an early age, having been employed during his own school holidays to take the old price tickets off the linen and substitute new ones with the same price written in red and an (imaginary) higher price boldly struck out. "That was considered normal in those days," he said.

How much have things changed? "During sale times I reckon almost every other shop will have something wrong with it," he said glumly.

"Some crafty characters regularly change their window displays just to escape the Trade Descriptions Act." The law says that where a previous selling price is crossed out and a new sale price written in the goods must have been sold at the higher price for at least 28 consecutive days in the last six months.

Mr. Butterfield and his colleagues once photographed the window of a shop near Oxford Circus every day for six months to prove a case. They also had to follow the owner home, withstand threats of violence, and trace an alias from the electoral register before they could bring a successful prosecution.

We started our tour with a look at that shop's windows. There were no misleading price comparisons evident. "One awkward thing about it," he said reflectively, "his prices really are quite cheap anyway."

Not all the trouble is with the small men. Mr. Butterfield had just come from giving Selridge, a lecture about the Government's new bargain offer regulations.

We paused to warn a manager at Irvine Sellers that they should not be making price comparisons with something claimed to be "normal value" in their window display, and to note some illegal comparisons with manufacturers' recommended prices in the Jones department of Debenhams and John's. Some of these manufacturers' prices that were quoted you could never find charged anywhere," said Mr. Butterfield.

Not all his work is concerned with protecting West End shoppers. Other current cases involve a company specializing in digital watch repairs which has a bad habit of losing customers' watches; a firm advertising varnishes by mail order and sending farmers thin gauge plastic sheeting instead, and a man whose mail order bicycles never arrive. "There is always someone in the West End who thinks he has found a new way to get rich quick," he says philosophically.

Back at the office we looked at the perfume sold as Chanel No. 5 on the Oxford Street pavement. It smelt like horse liniment. There was also a gold earring bought at Piccadilly Circus. It was brass. "Whatever we had found

"I think flying pickets are very un-British. Now crawling pickets..."



this morning", Mr. Butterfield said. "We did not in fact have brought a prosecution. Because of local government cuts I no longer have an assistant, and my union says I am not to use anyone else to supply corroborative evidence. I have not decided yet whether we should try going to court on one man's evidence alone."

## Dog eats self

Recently I wrote two articles exposing a series of misleading and illegal special offers made in The Observer. As recently as last Saturday these drew a letter from Mr. Brian Nicholson, managing director of The

Observer admitting they were in the wrong and making apology.

All the more distressing, therefore, to find on Sunday our own sister paper, The Sunday Times, committing a precisely similar offence.

The Sunday Times offered its readers, through Selective Marketplace, a subsidiary company of Times Newspapers, "a 9 carat solid gold necklace and matching bracelet", accompanied by a valuation certificate for quoted amounts considerably higher than the selling prices.

Nine carat gold is not "solid". Comparisons with insurance valuations, which have no relevance in resale value, have been illegal since last July. Concern that the practice of comparing jewelry prices with insurance valuations has continued among shady traders has been widely reported in newspapers already, including The Times on two occasions.

It is a shame to see a great campaigning newspaper drop its standards so disgracefully when its own dealings with the public are concerned.

## Too late

Some consumer complaints are more pressing than others. Mr. Gregory Slade has written from Bahrain to complain that three telexes to Fortnum and Mason asking them to deliver a bottle of champagne, a rooster and a pound of gift-wrapped chopped filler steak to an address in Twyford, Berkshire, at a specific time were all ignored. The items were for his Christmas presents for his wife and dog. Finally he telephoned twice

on December 28, and on the second occasion says the managing director, Mr. David Jaggs, told him the company could not accept orders of that nature. Only after he completely lost his temper did Mr. Jaggs agree to make the delivery, and even then it arrived late.

From Fortnum's Mr. Jaggs says: "Oh, dear, I had hoped we had managed to earn ourselves a little thank you after all. We do say on all our telexes that we will deliver guarantee Christmas delivery on orders received after December 1, and Mr. Slade's first telex was sent on December 13. Another difficulty was that Twyford is not in our delivery area and we do not have a fresh meat department."

"In the Christmas rush the telexes went astray, so I did feel we had let Mr. Slade down. We eventually took the steak to the restaurant, and delivered the order by courier taxi at a cost to ourselves of £25.88, getting it there before his wife went out in the evening. I sympathize with a great deal of what Mr. Slade says, but I did hope he would realize we had tried to make amends."

## Healthy prices

Those who patronize health food shops can have little concern for the health of their purse. The only difference between what the health shops sell and what can be bought in the supermarkets, which health food fanatics affect to despise, is often the price.

Last Thursday I compared prices between a Safeway supermarket and a health food shop owned by Holland and

Barrett. The shops are on opposite sides of the same precinct, precisely fifty paces apart.

Here are some of the prices of identical items I found:

	Health shop	Safeway
3lb Jordan's Original Cruisely with honey almonds (12lb)	£1.24	£1.15
Harmon old-fashioned peanut butter (11lb)	63p	52p
Reckitt's wholemeal loaf (1lb)	54p	47p
14lb Thompson's cut lump all	45p	37p
Rakuten's tea mat (11lb)	30p	25p
Powell's trout (11lb)	37p	32p
Turkey dates (25lb)	25p	22p
Suite grape juice (1 litre)	25p	22p
Bokked malt loaf (11lb)	25p	22p
Evian water (1.5l)	47p	42p
Vichy water (900ml)	47p	42p
Campbell's tomato and vegetable juice (12fl)	33p	29p

On average where both shops stocked identical brands in identical quantities, Barrett were 18 per cent dearer. The price differential was even wider where similar but not identical brands were compared, and between the prices charged for unbranded goods that were not likely to vary significantly in composition or quality. Two litres of Alfonso's Maltz corn oil cost more (£2.79) in the health shop than three litres of Mazola corn oil (£2.65) at Safeway.

There was just one thing Holland and Barrett were selling more cheaply. Five ounce packets of Percy Dalton's Monies (unshelled peanuts) were 28p in Safeway and 25p in the health shop. Still, the Holland and Barrett customers would have to eat an awful lot of Monies to stop the firm making monkeys of them.

Robin Young

مكروان النجاشي





New Printing House Square, London, WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

## IT'S DEMOCRACY THEY WANT

The poll by Opinion Research and Communication of public attitudes towards trade unionism that we published yesterday shows a state of public opinion that union leaders, meeting this week to prepare their campaign against the Employment Bill, would be wrong to disregard. The significance of the lessons it offers extends far beyond the question of the Bill itself, resoundingly as it demolishes any claim that the minor changes proposed are offensive or even unwelcome to the movement as a whole. The most serious aspect of the findings to the movement's leaders should be the extent to which their own followers evidently feel alienated from their methods of action, and mistrustful of their claims to speak on their behalf. The union leaders may not pay attention to general public opinion; they must pay attention to their own members.

The normal state of public opinion towards the unions in general has for years been marked by suspicion and disapproval. Even among trade union members, militancy has been neatly shown to be in dis-favour. A similar poll carried out by Opinion Research Centre in September, 1972, for instance, when the TUC campaign against the Industrial Relations Act was at its height and the government had already acknowledged that the Act would need extensive revision, found that 76 per cent of union members believed that the unions should obey the law.

This consistency of view implies a limitation at the same time as it defines a position. Clearly many who hold these general opinions find it quite possible at the same time to acquiesce in energetic industrial action in their own interests. The British public has a strong general prejudice in favour of order and respect for the law, and against conflict in any form; but this prejudice co-exists with ingrained inertia about doing anything to combat different views, and a lively sense of the advantages in terms of narrow self-interest of being militant on one's own behalf just now and then.

Any consideration of trade

unionists' doubts about the movement to which they belong must make allowances for this strain of passivity, which makes public opinion difficult to mobilize with any intensity either for or against plans to change industrial relations law. It would be dangerous for union leaders to be complacent about that. Disaffection on the scale indicated by yesterday's poll must come near to the point where the role of the unions in society risks being undermined by a deep and perhaps irreversible alienation from the mass of their supporters. Any such process would inevitably involve the Labour Party as well as the unions themselves.

Yesterday's poll sought to distinguish between ordinary lukewarm union members and strongly committed leaders of opinion by introducing a separate category of "active trade union members" — respondents who claimed to have attended a branch meeting or taken part in a union election in the previous twelve months. This fairly broad test set apart a group amounting to slightly fewer than half of all trade unionists replying, with opinions detectably closer to the "trade union" stereotype than the others. Yet the most striking aspect of the results is the extent to which they too exhibit doubt about the way their movement is going.

The questions asked fell into three groups: questions about the good or bad effects of trade unionism; questions about specific measures which might be taken to curb union power; and questions about the internal democracy of unions. In the first group, 74 per cent of members and 69 per cent of active members accepted that unions were at least "a certain amount" to blame for low productivity in Britain; 55 per cent and 45 per cent accepted that they should bear part of the blame for high unemployment as well.

In the second group of questions, the most emphatic result was the endorsement of the Government's proposals regarding secondary picketing: even among active members 70 per cent wanted the law to prohibit the practice. Sympathy strikes

and blacking were also regarded as an illegitimate weapon by a clear majority of all trade unionists, while active members were almost evenly divided. In this respect, they are more radical than the Government, which is not yet committed to any action.

The Bill's proposals on the closed shop were also endorsed by both groups of members; active members were actually more strongly in favour than any other group of measures to prevent the closed shop being imposed without the proven support of a large majority of those affected. This result is indicative of the suspicion members displayed about the relationship between unions and individual members. Some of the largest majorities in the poll (with little variation between ordinary and active members) were in favour of secret ballots for union elections and strike decisions. This again goes beyond the Government. What is absolutely clear is that union members are overwhelmingly in favour of more democracy.

Such attitudes suggest that the movement's uncompromising opposition even to moderate legislation threatens to cut the leaders off from the source of their strength. Many of their followers see them as using illegitimate means to pursue aims harmful to national prosperity, and without due regard for the views of their rank and file. It is in the interests of the unions themselves to seek a framework of law for their actions which can reassure their followers. They ought to come into serious negotiation—that is what their members would want. Such a framework should express a consensus of opinion across all parties. Yesterday's poll shows that the people most concerned have a clear idea of the form many aspects of that framework should take, and that it should be based on these propositions: no closed shops without a ballot and a large majority; no union elections without a ballot; no strikes without a ballot; no secondary picketing or blacking at all. Union members are tougher than a Conservative government in wanting a fair legal framework for their unions.

## The integrity of Guy Liddell

From Sir John Balfour, and others

Sir, We, the undersigned, have read with alternating pleasure and repugnance the articles published today (January 20) in *The Sunday Times* and *The Observer* about Guy Liddell, a senior officer of MI5. Whereas the former speaks of him favourably, the latter does the reverse and defames his reputation. Having either worked with Guy Liddell or been a friend of his family, we are moved to declare that, on the best of our knowledge, he was a person of sterling worth and flawless integrity who deserves well of his country, which, in times of exceptional difficulty, he served with efficiency, devotion and distinction.

We have no hesitation in voicing our wholehearted approval of the following robust tributes respectively paid to Guy Liddell in a statement to *The Times* on December 31 by Sir Dick White, who was Director-General of MI5 from 1953 to 1956, and in *The Sunday Times* today by the top ranking intelligence officer, W. J. Skardon, who worked with Liddell in MI5 and was with him until he retired: "I knew him well and never had the slightest doubt about his good faith" and "He was a wonderful man and any suggestion that he was a traitor is preposterous".

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN BALFOUR,  
WILLIAM CAVENTISH-BENTINCK,  
DAVID DE GLANTON,  
PATRICK GIBSON,  
JOHN STEPHENSON,  
38 Onslow Square, SW7.  
January 20.

## A burnt-out case?

From Mr Graham Greene, C.F.  
Sir, Let us hope that the official guide to survival is rather more realistic than that printed in the telephone book of the Panama Canal Zone for 1976.

"If no cover is available, lie down on your back, your arms and legs spread wide, your head with your arms or hands. Never look at the flash or the fireball. If indoors, go to the strongest part of the building and keep low." Yours truly,  
GRAHAM GREENE,  
Aden,  
January 19.

## Travelling in Russia

From Mrs Dilys V. Wood  
Sir, Your article on Civil Defence (January 16) implies that the decision to allow 160 American ground-launched cruise missiles to be installed in Britain makes us more liable to nuclear attack from the Russians and that any such attack would be aimed specifically at London.

Does it not follow that we should be much less liable to such an attack if we had no nuclear weapons at all? Yours faithfully,  
DILYS V. WOOD,  
5 Brambling Court,  
Chesham,  
Dorset,  
January 16.

## Links with Chile

From Lord Montgomery of Alamein  
Sir, The long overdue restoration of diplomatic relations between Chile and the United Kingdom is widely welcomed by British industry, commerce, and banking.

One might therefore have expected *The Times* to have taken a less narrow minded attitude (January 18) and at least have offered the new Ambassador their best wishes, since the reestablishment of harmonious relations will be a difficult task. The fact is that the removal of our Ambassador was most shortsighted and should never have taken place.

During the past few years the Chilean economy has achieved a spectacular recovery, but British participation has declined from 5.8 per cent in 1973, when we were fourth largest supplier, to 2.1 per cent in 1978, when we were tenth. It takes only a few years to establish strong trading links, but it is all too easy to destroy them. We have lost much goodwill in a country where we have such close historical links, and all our efforts will be required to regain the lost ground.

Yours faithfully,  
PHIL SIDLEY,  
Head of Network Production Centre,  
38 Park Hill Road,  
Birmingham.

## Americans and Ireland

From Professor Bernard Crick  
Sir, Michael Leapman's article headed 'How the presidential race could prolong Ulster's agony' (January 16) gravely misrepresents American-Irish opinion and perpetuates the tendency of the British press to report all American concern with Ireland in terms of a diminishing number of extremists of declining influence.

To present Dr Cahill, an adviser to the Governor of New York, as the spokesman for the extreme right is as absurd as to think that Governor Carey's allegiance to the Carter or the Kennedy camp will be bought by United States foreign policy demanding "troops out".

In similar terms an account of British attitudes to the EEC could be written for *The New York Times* in terms of Mrs Thatcher's need to placate, on the one hand, Mr Neil Martin, MP, and on the other, Mr Dennis Skinner, MP.

So prevalent and false in the British press is the myth of American extremism on Ireland that the *New Statesman* kindly gave me an extraordinary length (some 4,000 words) in their issue of December 7 last to document in boring detail what the real leaders of American-Irish opinion, Tip O'Neill, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Senator Kennedy, have said.

They have both strongly criticized British inertia on Northern Irish policy (and how right they were, until November's White Paper) and O'Neill wickily remarked, in the middle of our general election, that we treated Northern Ireland as a "political football". (I think he was referring to Mr Callaghan's granting of the Ulster seats to try to keep his government in power without extracting, Mr O'Neill would consider, any natural political price in terms of an Irish settlement; beyond that he was wrong. We simply ignored Northern Ireland in the election debate.)

But equally strongly they have campaigned, with great success, to stop the giving of money to dubious patriotic fund raisers who, in the past, moved it towards the IRA. In its place they created, in 1976, with open books and trustees of great respectability, an Irish Fund wholly devoted to charities and community development. The success of this can be measured in terms of almost a doubling in the number of bank robberies in the Republic in the last two years.

Kennedy, O'Neill and Governor Carey fought traditional nationalistic hard changed opinions, played responsible national politics, not the old style stuff. They have had little honour in the English press for their courage and success.

President Carter has gone on record, as have O'Neill and Ken-

## Boycotting the Moscow Olympics

From Mr Christopher Chataway and the Reverend Nicolas Stacey

Sir, The Russians have observed every Olympic ideal in their preparation for the Games. The American Olympic Committee would be in serious violation of Rule 24C, if they succumb to political pressure and do not participate. The Games have nothing to do with politics or national prestige. They are a competition between amateur individuals. Is Lord Kiliani really trying to impress upon us that the Olympics are now a sick parody of the founders' every aspiration?

Many of the sports which constitute today's swollen Olympics also have separate world championships. Track and field athletes do not survive the blow, but it can be replaced. Already the cost of staging so many different sports at once has reduced the venues to just a handful.

Even when this is done, I, for one, will feel that the loss of these games is a pathetic small in comparison with the loss of these proud peoples.

Yours faithfully,  
S. A. MARSH,  
British Olympic Athlete,  
Sapporo Winter Olympics,  
Les Hubs De Haut,  
St Martin,  
Guernsey, CI.

From Dr Michael Pratelli  
Sir, I agree with Professor Robert Skidelsky (January 17) that sport is a substitute for war. It is precisely for that reason the Moscow Olympic games should be boycotted by the West.

Yours truly,  
M. PRATELLI,  
1 Darnley Park Avenue, NWS,  
January 18.

## Mightier than a rifle

From Mr Monja Denischevsky

Sir, Can we draw any conclusions from the fact that the Russian word *Mir* (pronounced as in miracle) has two meanings—"World" and "Peace"?

Yours faithfully,  
M. DENISCHEVSKY,  
7 Beaumont Road,  
Farnham,  
Surrey,  
January 17.

## The sticking point

From Lord Rotherthall

Sir, Mr Fred Emery in his piece about appeasement (January 19) seems to ignore altogether the question, admittedly difficult, of when conciliation becomes appeasement. An important element in any judgement about this is credibility, ie how to make your opponent believe that you have a sticking point.

As far as British industry is concerned it is very much later than Mr Emery seems to think, if he supposes that it is going to escape catastrophe just by setting the steel strike. Industrial production, excluding oil, has been almost static since 1973, while since then unemployment has remained at levels unheard of since full employment became official policy.

The balance of payments is heavily in deficit despite the large contribution from North Sea oil. Neither the present nor the previous Government have dared to challenge demand, because although the unemployed want jobs, the community does not want to buy the extra output. It prefers imports.

There is no sign at all of the rehabilitation of industry which would reverse this slide into a real catastrophe as oil runs out. And at least a considerable factor in bringing about this state of affairs is the belief of many trade unions that they can enforce demands, far in excess of any increase of productivity, by disrupting, or merely threatening to disrupt, the economy. Yours faithfully,  
ROBERTHALL,  
73 Carew Mansions,  
Rutherford Street, SW1,  
January 19.

## Making precious metal

From Mr Christopher Weston

Sir, Many of us who are concerned with the identification, appraisal and sale of antiquarian silver are depressed to see that large numbers of items, which may have significant interest and value, are being melted down and will therefore be lost to future generations.

May I urge your readers to seek the opinion of an old established, reputable and knowledgeable dealer or auctioneer before allowing objects to disappear into the melting pot.

Present owners must stand to gain financially by using caution and seeking sound advice. Yours faithfully,  
CHRISTOPHER WESTON,  
Chairman,  
Society of Fine Art Auctioneers,  
7 Bloomsbury Street,  
New Bond Street, W1,  
January 21.

## Archbishop v Mammon

From Mr Evelyn Talbot-Ponsoney

Sir, Does it not seem a little surprising that a Prime Minister who, on the steps of No 10 after election, quotes a prayer ascribed to St Francis of Assisi, should allow Budget Day at over two months' notice to clash with the enthronement of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Primate of the Established Church?

This clash prevents many from attending the enthronement who would willingly be there and, on the media will inevitably ensure that the event suffers in comparison as news value with the price of petrol, alcohol or tobacco.

Yours faithfully,  
EVELYN TALBOT-PONSONEY,  
38 Kimsbury Road,  
Berkhamstead,  
Hertfordshire,  
January 18.

## From Mr C. R. A. Cunliffe

Sir, Why not have the enthronement early and the budget late in the day?

I am, yours truly,  
C. R. A. CUNLIFFE,  
East India Club,  
16 St James's Square, SW1,  
January 19.

## From the Reverend Richard Giles

Sir, If the Church of England really is the Tory party in prayer, what a strange decision of the Prime Minister's to require the Chancellor to make his budget speech entirely alone on March 25, his colleagues being on their knees in Canterbury Cathedral.

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD GILES,  
St Jude's Vicarage,  
Atherstone Avenue,  
Peterborough,  
January 18.

## UNEASY, UNFRIENDLY BUT NOT INVOLVED

Few countries can compare with Japan in the enduring strength of the loyalties that run throughout its society: loyalties of school, university and workplace, professional loyalties, loyalties of age-group, loyalties to equals and superiors in all walks of life. All these combine—or can combine when circumstances demand it—to make for strong national loyalties. Thus the revelations about a spy network acting on behalf of the Soviet Union within the intelligence department of Japan's self-defence forces must come as a shock and surprise. Disloyalty of this kind is rare and shameful. In the frequent polls asking the Japanese which foreign countries they favour and which they find less appealing it is the Russians who have consistently earned a low rating. For that reason Japanese resentment over this case will be the more heated. There are few spokesmen at any time in Japan urging warmer relations with the Russians.

General Miyazawa, the leader of the spy ring, has been a Russian-speaking specialist working in intelligence for many years. He had ended the war as a prisoner in Russian hands. There is bound to be a suspicion that his allegiance was a suspicion at that time. He had retired from the intelligence service six years ago but continued to pass information to the Russians with the help of two assistants still working in the service. No case of comparable importance involving Japanese nationals in

high position has come to light since the war. A year or more ago there were revelations about Japanese fishermen wanting to fish in the Sea of Okhotsk who were found to have bought their passage in some cases by answering questions put to them by Russian officials—but that was less scandalous and much less damaging.

What makes the present case particularly damaging is that the intelligence passed regularly to the Russians concerns not merely Japanese troop strengths and armament. The Russians were much more interested in information about the Americans that had been passed from Washington to the Japanese by virtue of the security treaty between the two countries. This must have been at a notably higher level than the items collected by a Japanese doctor who was caught four years ago interrogating American soldiers to whom he had offered free treatment for venereal diseases. Furthermore, some of the documents passed to the Russians dealt with the military situation in China, information that had been collected by the Americans and passed for information to the Japanese. There is much embarrassment at all this and there may be some resignations in the Japanese Defence Agency.

More immediate will be the fresh tide of anti-Soviet feeling that may follow these revelations. Japanese resentment at their treatment by the Russians in the past two decades, alternately friendly and harshly dismissive

of Japanese claims, has postponed year after year any formal post-war treaty. With the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan the Japanese now find themselves under pressure to take a strong stance of disapproval. While public opinion may support this the Japanese government may be much less willing to commit itself. In part this follows from the consistent policy of non-involvement since Japan has followed ever since the war. In part it may be a reaction to the circumstances since Japan signed the friendship treaty with China. There were those who feared that Japan would thereby be drawn into the Sino-Soviet conflict wherever and whenever it might surface, as in the case of China's seventeen-day invasion of Vietnam last February. Since then a certain uneasiness has been expressed.

The Japanese have certainly said that they want to be aligned with the West in this matter on which they have been consulting the Germans. That will involve decisions about credit for the Russians that might be postponed or cancelled. Not much more may follow. Of late the Japanese have been more than usually conscious that in their relations with both China and the Soviet Union they are being squeezed from both sides. They do not relish this pressure and are happy to retreat into non-involvement wherever possible. Even a wave of anti-Russian feeling in Japan may not be matched by action of the kind President Carter would welcome.

## Going up in the world

From Lady Lockwood

Sir, Miss Broadbent is entirely right (*The Times*, January 14) to criticize the extraordinary omission of women from the Nuffield Social Mobility Survey.

When my Commission was asked to submit evidence on "lower incomes" to the Royal Commission on the Distribution of Income & Wealth in 1977, we were driven to make the following observation:

"... it is necessary to mention a statistical problem which makes it difficult to present a case (on this subject). This is the problem of statistical invisibility of women in statistical sources. . . . The married woman especially disappears from view within such categories as 'household' or 'head of household'. The whole question of economic disadvantage amongst women members of the labour force could be more clearly displayed if women always appeared as a category in the statistical studies". (*Women & Low Incomes*, Equal Opportunities Commission, November, 1977.)

Since then, in collaboration with the Social Science Research Council, we have been considering the possibility of mounting a seminar to explore positive alternatives to the present unsatisfactory state of official statistics, and we hope that such a discussion can be organized in the not too distant future. But we had always hoped that academic research, with this respect, greater freedom in the way. Like Miss Broadbent, I can only regret

that the distinguished academics involved in the Nuffield survey have allowed this elementary but, in my view, crippling deficiency to mar a survey.

Yours faithfully,  
LADY LOCKWOOD,  
Chairman,  
Equal Opportunities Commission,  
Overseas House,  
Quay Street,  
Manchester,  
January 17.

## Recognizing trade unions

From Mr Leif Mills

Sir, The Government's proposals on changing employment legislation have given rise to a great deal of heat: some of this has been deliberately stoked up by those who seek confrontation, but the major part has been caused by consideration of the practical implications of the proposals.

However, in the discussion on the Government's proposals, little attention has so far been paid to the intention to repeal Sections 11-16 of the Employment Protection Act, which effectively remove the rights of trade unions to refer recognition issues to ACAS to inquire, with the powers of ACAS to inquire, and make an award in respect of trade union recognition.

It is a fact that there are still many employers—and some of these are employers—and some of these are employers—who found in the financial sector—who will refuse elementary rights of the trade unionists. If the Government's proposals are trans-

lated into legislation, then this will mean that the only recourse that the trade unions will have will be to industrial action.

Is this what the Government want?

Yours faithfully,  
LEIF MILLS,  
General Secretary,  
Banking Insurance & Finance Union,  
Sheffield House,  
Piermouth Road,  
Essex,  
January 11.

## Beverage rapport

From Mr David Burroughs

Sir, Your Correspondent Max Owen (January 14) suggests that "HM's Customs and Excise's 60p per litre levy on imported French wine" is completely contrary to EEC regulations.

If only it were true, we might have some hope of reducing this tax but, as the excise duty is levied equally on English wine as on French, we have not. Worse still, the duty currently levied on a litre of wine is 72p, and has VAT levied on it, bringing the total to 83p before we start paying VAT on the value of the wine itself.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID BURROUGHS,  
Chief Executive,  
Wine & Spirit Education Trust Ltd,  
Five Kings House,  
Kenner Wharf Lane,  
Upper Thames Street, EC4,  
January 14.





## COURT CIRCULAR

**SANDRINGHAM**  
January 21: The Right Hon Sir Philip Moore had an audience of the Queen this morning when Her Majesty invested him with the insignia of a Knight Commander of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath (Civil Division).

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother will attend a reception at St James's Palace on March 20 given by St John Ambulance to mark the year of nursing.

Princess Margaret will attend a debate by the Cambridge Union Society on February 4.

The Duke of Kent, patron of the Royal Opera, will attend a performance of *La Traviata* at Sadler's Wells Theatre, London, on April 15.

## Birthdays today

Miss Mary Hayley Bell, 66; Viscount Blakenham, 69; Sir John Totton, 71; Mr J. H. Dugan, 70; Lord Hughes, 69; Air Chief Marshal Sir Wallace Kyle, 70; Baroness Leke, 56; Admiral Sir Geoffrey Officer, 52; Vice-Admiral Sir Robert Pele, 73; Dr Denis Labeck, 66.

## Forthcoming marriages

Mr H. J. Charnaud and Miss C. J. Tallin. The engagement is announced between Harry, son of Mr and Mrs H. J. Charnaud, of Bournemouth, and Caroline, younger daughter of Mr Theo Tallin and the late Mrs Evelyn Tallin, of Bickley, Kent.

Major D. V. Franks Crum and Miss J. M. Wilson. The engagement is announced between Douglas Erskine Crum, Scots Guards, son of the late Lieutenant-General Vernon Erskine Crum, CBE, MC, and Mrs Vernon Erskine Crum, of Nuptown, Kent, and Miss J. M. Wilson, of Bickley, Kent.

Mr M. E. Heslop and Miss C. E. Ridler. The engagement is announced between Michael Emerson, elder son of Mr and Mrs M. Heslop, of Merstham, Surrey, and Caroline Barbara, younger daughter of the late Mr A. W. Ridler, and of Mrs A. Ridler, of Chelsea.

Mr A. L. Marks and Miss D. E. S. Birch. The engagement is announced between Anthony, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Harry Marks, of Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, and Erica, elder daughter of Wing Commander and Mrs Gordon Birch, of Brussels.

## Royal engagements

The following engagements for February have been announced from Buckingham Palace:

1: The Prince of Wales visits the headquarters of the General and Municipal Workers' Union, Thorpe House, Esher, Surrey.

5: The Prince of Wales visits the British Institute of Management, Management House, Parker Street, London WC2.

7: The Duke of Edinburgh visits the safety vessel, MSV Thoros, near the Piper Platform in the North Sea.

7-8: The Duke of Edinburgh, as Honorary Air Commodore, visits RAF Kinloss.

13: The Duke of Edinburgh, as president of the Royal Society of Arts, presides at a meeting of the Committee for the Environment at Buckingham Palace.

14: The Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, opens the Vikings Exhibition at the British Museum. The Prince of Wales attends, as principal speaker, the annual banquet of the British Chambers of Commerce at the Grand Hotel, Bristol. Princess Anne presents the Carl-Axel Awards at the Lyceum, London.

14: The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh give a reception at Buckingham Palace for the winners of the Queen's Award for Export and Technology.

16: Princess Anne, patron of the Royal Lyngby Yacht Club, attends the Cruising Dinner at Lyngby, Denmark.

19: The Duke of Edinburgh, as president, attends a meeting of the Royal Mint Advisory Committee at 7 Grosvenor Gardens, SW1.

20: The Duke of Edinburgh chairs the selection panel for the Duke of Edinburgh's Design Prize at the Design Centre, Haymarket. The Queen opens the "Hope Town" Salvation Army Hostel at Whitechapel. The Prince of Wales visits the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth.

22: The Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, opens the Glasgow Centre at St James's Palace, Edinburgh.

23-25: Princess Anne, Colonel-in-Chief, visits the Royal Corps of Signals in the Sovereign base areas, Cyprus.

25: The Queen holds an investiture at Buckingham Palace. The Duke of Edinburgh opens the "British Growers' Look Ahead" national conference and exhibition of the National Farmers' Union at Harrogate.

26: The Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, opens the Glasgow Centre at St James's Palace, Edinburgh.

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Gauguin on show: "Horsemen on the beach", a late work by Paul Gauguin on loan from the Stavros Niarchos collection, which is to be shown from today at the National Gallery concurrently with the

exhibition of Post-Impressionism. The picture, painted in 1902, the year before the artist's death, can be seen in Room 45; it is the first time it has been shown in London for 22 years.

## Irreplaceable works of art may have been lost

By Geraldine Norman  
Sale Room Correspondent

A call for urgent government action to stop the drain of irreplaceable works of art through the panic melting down of antique silver was made yesterday by Mr Christopher Weston, chairman of Phillips, the auctioneers. He made the plea on behalf of all members of the Society of Fine Art Auctioneers.

Society members are lobbying their MPs and representations are also being made to the Assay Office to take action to stop melting.

"I strongly suggest that the Government should consider bringing in quickly a ruling making it illegal for antique silver to be melted down unless the plate committee of the Goldsmiths' Hall really felt that the object concerned was of very small interest to future generations," Mr Weston said.

The last occasion when silver objects were melted down in bulk was in the early years of the eighteenth century, when Louis XIV melted down most of the silver objects in France to finance his campaign during the war of the Spanish Succession; very little French

silver dating before 1720 has survived.

The last big "melt-down" in Britain was during the Civil War and the Commonwealth, again to pay for expensive campaigns. Most of the college silver in Oxford was melted into coins to pay Charles I's soldiers; some coins bear the older hallmark of the piece destroyed to create them.

A spokesman for Goldsmiths' Hall said that the melting of silver had been going on since the war, but that it was only through ignorance that it is going on, he said. He suggested that most people must know if their silver had any antiquity or distinction, in which case its value in the piece was being melted.

For those in doubt there is a free pamphlet available from the Assay Office publications department at Goldsmiths' Hall telling them how to read hallmarks and the date letters for silver.

Johnson Matthey, a firm of precious metal refiners and fabricators outside whose Hatton Garden premises the long to finance his campaign during the war of the Spanish Succession; very little French

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## Israel takes lead in chess contest

By Harry Golombek  
Chess Correspondent

Assembling at the end of the second round in the European Team Chess Championship finals at Skara in Sweden, Israel was leading with 10 points, followed by Yugoslavia 9, USSR 8, England 7, Hungary and Sweden 7 and one game adjourned, Bulgaria 7, and Czechoslovakia 6.

Israel's high position must be partly because of its recent gain in strength in the shape of Soviet emigre grandmasters and partly because so far it has met two weaker teams.

England gave a disappointing performance in round two in losing to Bulgaria by 3-4. Once again the top four English players performed magnificently and scored three to Bulgaria's one point. Susan and Speelman winning their games very much as Morphy and Winawer had in the previous round. But the lower boards were quite outclassed and scored only half a point to Bulgaria's two.

The individual results were: 1. Miles, 2. Smyslov, 3. Spassky, 4. Karpis, 5. Polugaevsky, 6. Karpis, 7. Smyslov, 8. Spassky, 9. Miles, 10. Smyslov, 11. Spassky, 12. Karpis, 13. Polugaevsky, 14. Karpis, 15. Smyslov, 16. Spassky, 17. Miles, 18. Smyslov, 19. Spassky, 20. Karpis, 21. Polugaevsky, 22. Karpis, 23. Smyslov, 24. Spassky, 25. Miles, 26. Smyslov, 27. Spassky, 28. Karpis, 29. Polugaevsky, 30. Karpis, 31. Smyslov, 32. Spassky, 33. Miles, 34. Smyslov, 35. Spassky, 36. Karpis, 37. Polugaevsky, 38. Karpis, 39. Smyslov, 40. Spassky, 41. Miles, 42. Smyslov, 43. Spassky, 44. Karpis, 45. Polugaevsky, 46. Karpis, 47. Smyslov, 48. Spassky, 49. Miles, 50. Smyslov, 51. Spassky, 52. Karpis, 53. Polugaevsky, 54. Karpis, 55. Smyslov, 56. Spassky, 57. Miles, 58. Smyslov, 59. Spassky, 60. Karpis, 61. Polugaevsky, 62. Karpis, 63. Smyslov, 64. Spassky, 65. Miles, 66. Smyslov, 67. Spassky, 68. Karpis, 69. Polugaevsky, 70. Karpis, 71. Smyslov, 72. Spassky, 73. Miles, 74. Smyslov, 75. Spassky, 76. 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هكذا من الجاهل

THE TIMES  
BUSINESS NEWSBryant  
Industrial  
Construction  
021 704 5111■ Stock markets  
FT Ind 457.7, down 2.1  
Ft Gilt 69.26, up 0.73■ Sterling  
\$2.2840, down 15 points  
Index 72.3, up 0.4■ Dollar  
Index 64.9, up 0.2■ Gold  
\$825 an ounce, down 510■ 3-month money  
Inter-bank 17 1/2 to 17 1/4  
Euro-14 1/4 to 14 1/2

## IN BRIEF

Zambian  
takeover of  
petrol and  
fuel stocks

Zambia has nationalized petrol and diesel oil stocks worth 14m kwachas (about £7.743m) belonging to five international oil companies according to a reliable source in Lusaka. The value of the fuel, owned by Agip, Caltex, Mobil, Shell-BP and Total, would be credited to the companies involved.

The Zambian government, which has a half share in the indol oil refinery at Ndola with the Italian ENI company, has also indicated that it plans to open negotiations to buy back the Ndola Oil Storage Co and its installations.

## Crisis cartel ended

Western Europe's synthetic fibre makers have decided to scrap their controversial 1978 market-sharing agreement known as the "crisis cartel". European Community sources in Brussels say. The producers will announce new arrangements in the next few days to reduce total EEC output on a voluntary basis.

## Shares suspended

Armstrong Shanks Group, Britain's last independent and largest sanitary ware manufacturer asked for its shares to be suspended, at 56p, yesterday following an approach which may lead to an offer. The company is capitalised at £17.6m and likely bidders include Marley and Hanson Trust, rather than Ceramic Investment of Panama, which has 21 per cent of the Staffordshire group.

## Loan for R-R

Lazard Bros yesterday arranged a \$156m (about £68m) loan for Rolls-Royce. The loan is for Eastern Air Lines of Miami, United States, to help them buy Rolls-Royce RB 211-535 engines for the 21 Boeing 757 aircraft on order.

## Farm loan to China

Nichimen Co, a Japanese trading firm, says it has signed an agreement to provide 3,400m yen (about £6.2m) in loans to China to help finance a large-scale agricultural project in Heilongjiang Province in north-eastern China.

Food for the poor, page 19

## Nissan in \$40m deal

Japan's Nissan Motor Co says in Tokyo it has acquired a 36 per cent interest in Motor Iberica SA, of Spain, by buying some 2.65 million shares from Massey Ferguson of Canada. Motor industry sources said the total cost was about \$40m (about £15m).

## Recruits for CBI

The Stock Exchange and the Association of British Travel Agents are among this month's list of new recruits to the Confederation of British Industry.

## MG bid delay concern

BL executives are considering how much more time to allow the consortium led by Aston Martin Lagonda, to make an offer for the MG car operations at Abingdon in Oxfordshire.

## Dow Jones up 5.63

On the New York Stock Exchange yesterday the Dow Jones industrial average gained 5.63 points to close at 872.18. SDR-5 stood at 1.31975 and SDR-2 at 0.576008.

## PRICE CHANGES

## Rises

Appleyard 9p to 71p  
Burnett & H'shire 15p to 53p  
Gieves Grp 21p to 10p  
Messina Trans 13p to 19p  
Metalfax 7p to 56p

## Falls

Broken Hill 10p to 67p  
E Driofontein 40p to 65c  
Elabor 20c to 900c  
Groovet 10p to 71p  
Howard & Wynd 11p to 71p

PO chief opposes  
any surrender  
of service to  
private industryBy Patricia Tisdall  
Management Correspondent

A report justifying the Post Office's monopoly of addressed mail has been sent by Sir William Barlow, the chairman, to the Secretary of State for the industry. The report, which examines possible modifications, was compiled following complaints about deliveries during the summer. Sir Keith Joseph threatened to review the monopoly if services did not improve.

The resulting information is not likely to be made public on the grounds that it contains commercially confidential material. However, it is understood that Sir William Barlow's idea of having off any substantial sector of the service to private industry in the belief that it would not be to the general advantage to cream off selected profitable traffic.

The report is separate from the Monopoly Commission investigation into the letter post service, due to be completed in March. This was instigated by Mr John Nott, Secretary of State for Trade, because of concern about declining standards in the London postal area.

Both reports will be used in drafting the new legislation needed to divide the Post Office into two independent corporations. This is expected to be introduced before the end of this year and is likely to give greater scope for private industry to supply apparatus for attachment to the telecommunications network.

Consultations aimed at modifying the Post Office's present exclusive rights in this area are already taking place between the Post Office, manufacturers, trade unions and users.

Financial results for the half year due to be discussed at the corporation's full board meeting today are expected to show that

posts have made a loss of about £12m compared with a profit of over £24m for the same period in 1978-79. Estimates for the full year, however, indicate substantial recovery with posts forecast to reach a profit broadly in line with the target of 2 per cent on turnover.

Considerable thought is being given to the long-term future of the new postal and Giro corporation once it has been split from its more profitable telecommunications partner.

Business users fear that, when asked to make a choice, the most able management and headquarters support staff will opt for telecommunications.

They view the tariff increases, due to take effect on February 4, as a possible first step in a spiral of higher prices and declining volume of use.

The influential Post Office Users' National Council criticised the corporation last month for not introducing a wider price differential between the new charges for first and second class letters.

POUNC believes that there is scope for raising the volume of mail through improved marketing and pricing policies. Government policy makers are also keenly aware that British use of the letter post (per head) is less than that in other countries such as Belgium, France, the Netherlands or Canada, and only about half that in the United States.

One suggestion has been that private couriers should be allowed to carry urgent mail and charge market prices. This would free the Post Office to introduce a single daily delivery spread over a longer period at present and so improve the utilization of manpower and plant. At present, private couriers are only legally allowed to carry parcels.

French court rules in  
favour of Iranians

By Our Economics Staff

Iran has won the latest round in its battle with the Paris branch of the United States bank, Citibank. A French court yesterday rejected an appeal by Citibank against the temporary freezing of just over \$50m (£21m) of its funds held with the Bank of France and the Banque Internationale pour l'Afrique Occidentale.

Bank Markazi of Iran had asked the French courts to freeze the Citibank assets on the grounds that Citibank owed the Iranians \$50m.

The American bank has refused to release this \$50m, held on deposit at its Paris branch by the Iranians, claiming that it is covered by the Presidential freeze on Iranian funds.

Yesterday's court ruling said

that the blocked Citibank funds would be limited to \$51,733,404, adding that this was a "conservative" measure pending the final judgment by Bank Markazi against Citibank for release of the original \$50m. This is expected to reach the courts again in early March.

Citibank refused to comment last night on its next likely move in the saga.

It had earlier given the impression that it expected the court ruling to be in its favour. The funds blocked are part of those which it uses for its clearing operations in France. There was no indication yesterday about how the blocking would affect Citibank's ability to carry on business as usual in Paris.

Merchant banking 'club' debates the delicate question of foreign takeovers of members

## Seeking acceptance by the Accepting Houses

By Andrew Goodrick-Clarke  
Financial Editor

Two running takeover bids for members of the Accepting Houses Committee (AHC) have disturbed the calm atmosphere within this charmed inner circle of British merchant banking.

No one suggests that there is a dispute among the 17 leading merchant banks which make up the committee. But there is a divergence of opinion about whether two members—Singer & Friedlander and Antony Gibbs Holdings, both of whom could fall under foreign ownership—should be allowed to continue as members.

Members of the committee are showing foresight, since the question has not yet been asked by either of the banks affected. But if the American insurance broker, Singer and Friedlander, succeeds with its takeover bid for C.T. Bowring, of which Singer is part, and if the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation buys the 60 per cent of Gibbs which it does not already own, then the case for continuing membership will have to be decided.

The rules are complicated. The committee set up in 1914 as a sort of club of private bankers, has no written constitution and the benefits of membership are obscure.

It is important enough in terms of status, however, for leading banks to want to belong. Members know that their lists are eligible for re-discounting at the finest possible rates in the money market (but so now are those of other leading banks).

And people who deal with Accepting Houses know that the standing of a member in the banking world is as sound as it could be. Indeed, the Bank of England, with whom the Accepting Houses have always had a close relationship, is understood to ensure that.

On the other hand, in the 1974/75 secondary banking crisis, the Bank saved many banks which were not members of the AHC.

But if the obvious advantages of membership have been whittled away over the years, leading merchant banks continue to guard their AHC status jealously. Singer and Gibbs will almost certainly want to continue to belong, even if they are taken over. That is where the dilemma arises.

The AHC, whose chairman is Mr John Baring, is a self-electing body, although in practice the Bank of England would approve any new member. AHC members must be full members of the British Bankers' Association, which in turn means that they must (in the view of the Bank of England) be British-controlled.

This has been interpreted as meaning that at least 50 per cent of equity should be in British hands and that no single non-resident should own more than 15 per cent of the equity. EEC banks, however, can take up to 25 per cent of an AHC member. If the takeovers go through, neither Singer nor Gibbs would seem to be eligible for membership—either full membership of the British Bankers' Association or in turn the AHC.

But the rules can be bent; indeed they already are. Gibbs is now owned 40 per cent by the Hongkong and Shanghai. The key to their future membership, therefore, looks like being decided on another important condition of AHC membership—namely, the conduct of any member bank must be free from day-to-day control by its parent.

There is some "case-law" here. Samuel Montagu, when it

fell into the hands of the Midland Bank, was able to convince AHC and the Bank of England that it would continue to run as an independent unit within Midland. William Brandin, on the other hand, resigned from the AHC in 1975 when it became clear after serious difficulties in the bank that its parent, Grand-lays, could not give Brandin the necessary degree of management independence.

What worries some members of the AHC is that, if the rules can be bent in this way, the whole basis and point of membership could be undermined. The mess which Lloyd's, the insurance market, has got itself into over the question of foreign membership (a question which also arises in the case of Gibbs which has Lloyd's insurance broking interests) is not one they want to see repeated by the AHC.

Thus the debate goes on within City banking parlours. No decisions will have to be taken until the outcome of the two takeover bids is known.

In the case of Singer, its parent is strongly resisting the American offer, so the question may never arise. But in Gibbs' case, a friendly takeover is

planned. The Hongkong and Shanghai would both like to see Gibbs' membership of the AHC continued, and could well be putting their case to the committee in the spring.

James Burn is the most profitable subsidiary of Gieves which last year turned in pre-tax profits amounting to £1.6m. Without this offshoot the new Gieves Group will consist of the Savile Row men's outfitters Gieves & Hawkes, book and magazine manufacturer Redwood Burn, whose main concern is to print and bind the Guinness Book of Records and motor dealer, publishing and property divisions.

Net current assets of the new group will amount to £4.4m or 77p a share against 144.5p at the time of the last report and accounts.

Savile Row's main competitor in the United States, where around 20 per cent of Burn's exports are sold, and was planning to expand into the European market. By taking over the Gieves subsidiary, it has found a ready-made manufacturer and market.

Some economists have argued that it will not matter if the PSBR does rise for this cyclical, reason next financial year. However, Mr Lawson yesterday emphasized that any cyclical rise should come against the background of a secular fall in the PSBR as a proportion of GDP.

He was suggesting that the net effect in 1980-81 would be to leave the PSBR little changed from its present proportion of 44 per cent of GDP.

The Treasury ministers are united in the view that severe cuts in public spending, and a relatively hard Budget are needed to ensure the control of Government borrowing and the money supply.

Mr Lawson yesterday strongly defended the Government's policy of controlling the money supply and the PSBR, and said that those who argued that the

Government could expand the economy if it chose were wrong. He held out the hope of cutting income tax still further—eventually reaching a basic rate of 25p—and hinted at further sales of public sector assets in the near future. It now seems likely that the Government will try to cut income tax in the Budget, over and above the statutory requirement to raise tax thresholds in line with inflation. They will probably pay for this through a combination of tax increases on petrol, alcohol and tobacco, some asset sales, and possibly a new tax on gas.

Mr Lawson also announced that the Bank of England has now begun to receive figures from British banks on their overseas activities. The bank said last summer that it wanted to institute new reporting procedures for banks, which would enable it to monitor the lending of United Kingdom banks overseas. This was part of the push for more control over the Euromarkets. The main object is to keep a check on the so-called "country risk exposure" of British banks, in the wake of international fears that some banks, operating in the freedom of the Euromarkets, might become over-exposed in particular countries.

Mr Lawson made it clear to his audience of the Euro-market conference that the United Kingdom was not in favour of new international measures to control Euromarkets. These have been mooted as a result of instability on world financial markets in recent years. The Americans have recently moved in favour of taking some measures, and the Germans are also supporters.

However the enthusiasm died down after the dual shock of Iran and Afghanistan.—Business, Diary, page 19.

Hugh Stephenson, page 19



Mr John Baring: in the chair as the Accepting Houses Committee debates foreign ownership.

Gieves of Savile Row is selling  
offshoot to US buyer for £3.7m

By Alison Mitchell

Gieves Group, the Savile Row tailors and bootbinders, is selling its James Burn Bindings subsidiary for £3.7m and distributing the cash to shareholders. Although the deal took nine months to complete, the new owner will keep the stock market where the shares yesterday closed 21p higher at 103p.

Holders of ordinary shares will receive 60p in cash while the preference and "B" preference shareholders will be paid 120p per share, when the deal with Standex International, a United Kingdom subsidiary of the American corporation, goes through.

Among the conditions is a submission terminating the sale on a commencement of war or armed hostilities involving either Britain or the United States.

The complicated terms of the deal involve Gieves shareholders putting the company

into voluntary liquidation. This avoids both the company and the shareholders paying tax on the deal but results in Gieves temporarily losing its stock market quotation. However, Mr Michael Keeling, the group chairman, said yesterday that the stock market was prepared to give the company its new quote without involving it in the expensive and complicated procedure required by new issues.

James Burn Bindings was taken over by Gieves in 1970. In the six months to July 31 last, pre-tax profits slipped from a previous £388,000 to £289,000 and there is little chance of the downturn being reversed in the second half. However, the chairman is expecting Burn to make around £550,000 for the year to January 31, 1980, against a previous £746,000.

The net tangible assets of the subsidiary—which manufactures metal spiral book bindings—amount to £1.2m.

## Marsh to press Bowring bid

By Richard Allen

Insurance Correspondent

Marsh said last night that it would be offering \$190 cash and 2.767 of its own shares for every 100 Bowring ordinary. Last night's closing rate puts a value of just under 163p on each Bowring ordinary.

The terms are the same as those put two weeks ago, when the American group sought board approval for a full takeover. Then Bowring's directors discussed the offer as not in the best interests of the British group and described the terms as "inadequate".

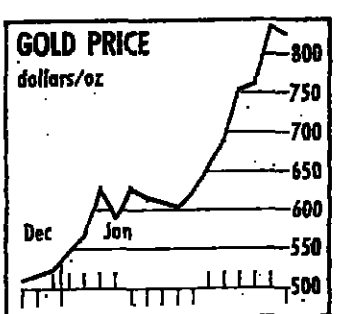
Bowring's shares closed unchanged last night at 143p as speculation continued over the American group's ability to overcome regulatory hurdles on both sides of the Atlantic.

Chief among these could be approval of the Lloyd's committee, which at present disallows outside groups from holding generally more than 20 per cent of a Lloyd's member firm. However, Marsh hinted it would be prepared to sell off 75 per cent of the group's Lloyd's broking interests to

satisfy the committee's rule. The offer is also dependent on approval of the Office of Fair Trading and Bank of England consent concerning the future of Singer & Friedlander, Bowring's merchant banking offshoot.

Marsh intends to post offer documents to Bowring shareholders as soon as registration procedures with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission have been completed.

Bowring said last night: "Because of the drop in M & M's share price, coupled with the strength of sterling since then, the offer is now worth even less".



\$99.50 on Friday afternoon's close, and three-month futures were £88 up at £1,295.50. At the afternoon close cash wire bars were £121.50 up on the day at £1,318.50 and three-month futures were £85 up at £1,312.50.

## US profit-taking slows gold price

By Caroline Atkinson

The gold price rocketed again during trading hours on London's bullion markets yesterday, although dealers reported that activity was not quite as hectic as at the end of last week. By the end of the day, the price was brought down by profit taking from New York and dropped back to close at \$825 an ounce, \$10 down from Friday.

In New York it closed at \$819 an ounce, slightly higher than Friday's close of \$812.

But gold reached a record of \$850 an ounce at the London afternoon fixing. This prompted a rise on the Chicago futures market where gold futures reached \$1,000 an ounce for the first time. Contracts for delivery this month stayed below \$850, and it was only those for next year which went above \$1,000.

As has become the pattern, currency markets remained fairly quiet yesterday. The

dollar was firm all day, and closed higher than on Friday against most currencies. It rose by 0.2 points against a basket of currencies to 84.3 per cent of its end of 1979 value.

Sterling was gaining ground against most currencies, continuing the trend of the last few weeks. The pound jumped 0.4 points against a basket of currencies to 163.3 per cent of its end of 1979 value.

On this measure the pound is now more than 9 per cent above its low point in early November. It is now causing serious problems for industry, but there is no sign that the Government intends to intervene in the

markets in a large scale to affect the rate. Mr John Biffen, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, said yesterday that it was better to concentrate on the redeployment of resources from uncompetitive sectors than to attempt to prop them up through import controls.

The pound weakened slightly against the dollar yesterday, closing 15 points down at 2.2840.

Speculative buying, prompted by the continued rise in gold, helped to take copper prices to their highest levels since May 1974 on the London Metal Exchange.

At the close of the morning session cash wire bars were at £1,296.50 a tonne, a rise of

Russian sorcerers may be turning lead into gold  
Moscow finds the Midas touch

As if the gold market was not already in enough turmoil, a new bizarre twist was added yesterday after a report in The New York Times that the Russians had discovered how to turn lead into gold—and at an economic price.

Sorcerers and their apprentices have struggled to do this for hundreds of years without success, which perhaps accounts for the healthy scepticism which laced the report. But the Russians have one advantage which medieval alchemists did not have and that is an understanding of advanced nuclear physics.

Scientists make the process sound quite simple. The nucleus of the lead atom contains 82 protons, only three more than the gold atom with 79. So all you need to do is knock out three of these lead protons and you will be left with gold.

You will also, of course, get enough radioactivity as a by-product to wipe out everyone down to the court jester, but that is by the way.

The technology also exists, or

American scientists think it does, to break up the lead atom in the way described and remove the radioactivity.

Uncertainty on this point stems from the fact that the Russians lead the Americans in this particular branch of nuclear physics technology, and particle accelerators—the machines which bombard the lead atom to break it up—are thought to be superior to those in the United States.

But it is one thing to make gold in the laboratory. It is quite another to build a plant capable of mass producing the precious metal, and this is where scientists really are sceptical.

Officials at the National Science Foundation estimate the cost of producing one gram in the way described as anything between \$1,000 and \$1m (£438 and £438,500). Given that there are 30 grams to the ounce, it would seem a poor investment even for an economy which does not have a profit motive.

But the anonymous source of the report claims that the Russians can do it for \$600 an ounce, well below the current market price.

For the moment there is no way of checking. The report came to the West via a Russian scientist who emigrated to Israel. He claims to have worked on the project but, as his identity is being concealed for his protection, he could just as easily have made up the story.

Gold dealers with any time to comment yesterday were far more concerned with the fact that gold opened at yet another New York record of \$845 an ounce than with the possibility that some of the metal might be synthetic.

But one leader did demonstrate the quickness of mind that makes the breed famous. "I didn't believe the story, but I did buy some lead this morning just in case", he said.

Anthony Hilton  
in New York

The 59,228 shareholders of BOC International have just been sent their copy of the 1979 Annual Report. If you would like a copy of this report, please complete the coupon below.

The 94th Annual Meeting of BOC International Ltd., will be held at The Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith, King Street, London W6 0QL, on Wednesday 27th February 1980 at 3.00 pm.

To: Investor Relations Department,  
BOC International Ltd., Hammersmith House, London W6 9DX.  
Please send me a copy of BOC International's 1979 Annual Report.

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Address



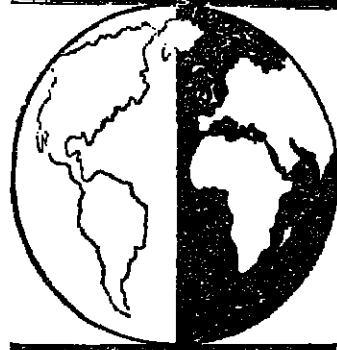
	Bank buys	Bank sells
Australia \$	2.12	2.15
Austria Sch	26.75	27.75
Belgium Fr	68.75	65.35
Canada \$	2.71	2.64
Denmark Kr	12.80	12.25
Finland Mk	8.75	8.35
France Fr	9.55	9.15
Germany DM	4.14	3.92
Italy Lit	101.50	96.50
Japan Yen	11.40	10.80
Netherlands Gld	2010.00	1900.00
Sweden Kr	575.00	550.00
Switzerland Fr	4.55	4.32
USA \$		
Yugoslavia Dnr		

## THE POUND

	Bank buys	Bank sells
Norway Kr	11.67	11.60
Portugal Esc	120.00	117.00
South Africa Rd	2.17	1.97
Spain Pta	157.50	150.50
Sweden Kr	9.82	9.42
Switzerland Fr	3.84	3.62
USA \$	2.34	2.28
Yugoslavia Dnr	54.00	50.00

Notes for small denomination bank notes only  
Bank of England  
Different rates apply to different currencies  
Business





## Oil crisis threat to stability of EEC

The European Economic Community is threatened with "breakdown" because of the growing disparity in the rates of economic development in member states, according to an expert analysis released in Brussels by the European Commission.

Purpose of the report was to examine the changes in the industrial structure of Europe since the oil price crisis of 1973.

The differences in the ability of member states to adapt to changed circumstances means that the balance of advantage for individual member states in continuing with the construction of Europe has now become so great as to threaten the EEC with collapse.

Certain consequences of the energy crisis have been common to all member states: slower growth, declining investment and rising unemployment. The report says that industry in Britain, with some exceptions such as chemicals and data-processing, was declining even before the 1973 crisis, and this diminished its ability to adapt afterwards.

### Mr Nott in Tokyo

Mr John Nott, the British Secretary for Trade, in Japan on a five-day visit, has said in Tokyo that British banking and insurance industries had found some barriers in their efforts to penetrate the Japanese market. Britain would like to see more Japanese investment and exchanges of technology to help reduce the bilateral trade imbalance now in Japan's favour.

### Gas prices rise

Canada will raise its export price for natural gas to \$4.47 (about £1.53) per million British thermal units from \$3.45, effective February 17. At the same time, in Amsterdam, Mr Frans Andriessen, the Dutch finance minister, said proposals would soon be made to increase revenue from gas exports.

### IISI make more steel

Crude steel production among member countries of the International Iron and Steel Institute rose by nearly 6 per cent last year to 486.96 million tonnes. The IISI member countries account for 98.2 per cent of world production outside the Soviet Union and North Korea.

### Middle East oil talks

Dr Mansur Bib-Said al-Obeidi, the United Arab Emirates oil minister, had a day of talks yesterday in Riyadh with the Saudi oil minister Shaikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani on Dr Obeidi's call for an emergency meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries to consider problems arising from the failure of consumer countries to use less oil.

### Gas find near Vienna

Austria's state-owned oil company says it has found natural gas at a depth of just over 7,500 metres at Zistersdorf, about 35 kilometres north-east of Vienna.

### China's deficit doubles

China's trade deficit doubled to around \$2,000m (about £885m) in 1979 from 1978 deficit of about \$1,000m, the Japan External Trade Organization claims in a survey report.

### Austria tightens up

Tougher monetary measures in Austria will be unavoidable, Mr Hannes Androsch, the finance minister, said.

## Restrictive clauses examined for evidence of over-pricing Competition test for shop leases

Restrictive clauses written into shop leases are understood to be under preliminary investigation by the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) in anticipation of new powers when the Competition Bill becomes law.

A case involving a shopping precinct in the north of England is already being looked into by the OFT. It seems likely that this is a peripheral case but has led the OFT into extending its inquiries elsewhere.

Restrictive clauses sometimes lay down categories of goods which the shop tenant should not offer for sale. Or it may be stipulated that classes of goods to be sold must be agreed by the landlord, the detail being left to informal agreement.

In some shopping precincts, agreements stipulating the sale of certain products can be argued as ensuring a balanced "shopping mix". But there has been growing criticism that restrictive clauses can lead to distortion of competition by limiting choice of some types of shop and also allowing over-pricing.

Some sectors are said to be more affected than others, particularly in giftware and fancy goods. This sector includes jewellers and other shops specialising in watches, glassware, silverware and stationery.

Mr Dale Campbell-Savours, Labour MP for Workington, is collecting evidence of leases where he believes higher rents have been charged because restrictive clauses have guaranteed individual traders either exclusivity or a degree of it.



Mrs Sally Oppenheim: closer scrutiny of competition in shopping precincts.

He said: "Restrictive clauses have become a very big problem. A number of retailers are being caught out where landlords, some in London, have bought up whole blocks of property on a high street and insist on leases on knowing what is to be sold."

Mrs Sally Oppenheim, Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, has pointed out during committee hearings on the Competition Bill that the OFT might like to look at the way some local authorities allow municipal shops to be sole providers of some goods.

But she also said that there were difficulties in assessing practices in private shopping precinct developments. Precincts might be set up in response to public

demand on a housing estate, for instance. People were also free to shop elsewhere if goods in a precinct seemed too expensive or if it did not give a sufficiently wide choice. Closer scrutiny would be given for the final draft of the Bill, she said.

The Government's Bill, due to reach report stage in the House of Commons today, will allow Mr Gordon Borrie, Director General of Fair Trading, to act on abuses of market dominance at the local level.

He would also be able to act where there is intent beforehand to distort competition, as might happen before a new shopping precinct actually opened.

A Labour Party attempt to amend the Bill to strengthen Mr Borrie's powers in this sector is expected to be made today. In earlier hearings on the Bill an unsuccessful attempt was made to cover anti-competitive practices that either wholly or partly involved the use of land.

That would bring commercial property arrangements within the scope of the legislation but would also for the first time allow the Director General to look at open air markets and car parks or caravan sites.

In committee the Government has argued that accepting an amendment on the land provision would unjustifiably take the Director General into the complex area of the Rent Acts. It was argued that tenants were offered protection through other legislation.

Derek Harris

## Export aid scheme gets time to prove itself

By Edward Townsend

The Market Entry Guarantee Scheme (MEGS), which helps small and medium-sized companies to break into new markets and which could be a casualty of public spending cuts, is to be extended until at least the end of March.

The scheme, launched in January 1978 for an experimental two-year period, has been granted a temporary reprieve to allow its usefulness to be assessed. The British Overseas Trade Board, which administers the MEGS, said yesterday it would announce its long-term position in March.

BOTB officials consider the scheme to have been a worthwhile addition to its range of export services. By the end of last year 172 applications for financial support had been received and 44 agreements finalised.

Under the MEGS formula the BOTB contributes 50 per cent towards eligible costs which include overheads incurred overseas. In return applicants pay a levy on sales receipts to the BOTB.

Any size of company can apply but there is a minimum turnover of £20,000 and a maximum of £100,000 over a period of up to five years.

Although the future of the MEGS remains in doubt, the BOTB said yesterday that applications were still invited during the next few months.

The Government's overall export promotion services face spending cuts of £53,000 and a staff reduction of 91 as part of the Civil Service cuts announced.

It is believed that the export intelligence service and the export marketing research services are at risk.

## A 'remote cure' for computers

### Technology News

An important advance in the "remote diagnosis" of computer systems has been implemented by Digital Equipment Corporation (DEC) at its sales and service office at Basingstoke, Hampshire.

For users of the company's "super-mini" class of computer, DEC is now offering a computer-based system of remote diagnosis on a routine basis as an integral part of its service support.

When something goes wrong with a computer, the first sign of a defect is often a garbled output or an apparent refusal to carry out a task according to the present program. By sitting at a terminal and trying out various routines, an engineer then goes through a process of elimination to track down the defective component in the system.

With the growing use of interconnected computers and terminals using data communications, it is clearly possible for a defect in a computer at one location to be traced by an engineer sitting at a terminal somewhere else, via a telephone connection between the two sites.

Equally, the engineer's process of elimination can be automated so that pre-programmed diagnostic routine can be used. In other words, one computer can be used to diagnose what is wrong with another.

These are the principles of what is known as remote diagnosis. DEC's latest innovation in this field is to introduce the automated version of this technique into the initial telephone conversation by which a customer normally calls for service assistance—and, indeed, into the procedures for routine preventative maintenance.

Introducing DEC's computerized remote diagnosis centre at Basingstoke last week, Mr Darryl Barbe, general manager of the corporation's UK subsidiary, Digital Equipment

Company, said: "To our knowledge, this is the first computerized remote diagnostic service of this type in the industry, in that it is computer-controlled from a central system, operates even when the customer's processor is down, and is a primary maintenance method, not merely a support tool."

To be precise, the overall service is computer-aided rather than computer-controlled, since the engineer who answers the customer's telephone call for help does an amount of initial diagnosis himself on the basis of the information he is given. This is expressed in the sequence of diagnostic programmes to be used, with the areas judged to be the most likely sources of the defect being tackled first.

The customer's call is made via the Post Office's "Freefone" service to the remote diagnosis centre. After the preliminary identification for the customer, the computer at the centre auto-dials the customer's computer and takes it through the diagnostic tests.

After the system has traced the source of the fault, the diagnostic engineer at Basingstoke, via a telephone office which services the particular customer installation and gives details of the fault and the recommended replacement items needed.

After the field service engineer from the office has completed the repair (the faulty item is simply replaced, for full repair within the DEC organization later), he can call up the host computer again for a further computer-to-computer check that the problem has been solved.

Main advantages offered by the new system are a faster and more accurate diagnosis of the trouble; and a more efficient engineering response. The field service engineers go out to the scene of a fault with a much more complete knowledge of what is involved and what is required.

The same advantages apply to routine preventive maintenance, as distinct from trouble-shooting when things go wrong. A computer-controlled diagnostic check can be run remotely on a system the night before an engineer is due to call, so that he knows what to expect when he makes the visit.

At present remote diagnosis is available or is being introduced on the larger versions of DEC's PDP-11 computers. In a typical session the two computers might be connected for a minimum of 15 minutes to a maximum of two or three hours.

For the future, the company intends to incorporate remote diagnosis in all its large and medium-scale computers and anticipates that about 10,000 of its customers will be using remote diagnosis in five years' time.

To speed up the actual process of diagnosis for such a large market, faster data transmission using the new public networks is likely to be adopted. And, to reduce the time during which the two computers are connected, software is being developed that will enable the host computer to telephone the faulty machine, tell it to do something and then to call back when that task is complete.

The Basingstoke centre is DEC's first remote diagnosis unit in Europe. A second is to be brought into use at Valbonne, in the South of France, in March. About 1,800 customers are using the system in the United States.

Kenneth Owen

## Turkey looks set for devaluation measures

Ankara, Jan 21.—Turkey will announce a package of economic measures within the next few days, including a devaluation of the lira and consumer price rises for petrol and other basic products, Finance Ministry sources said.

The package is aimed at attracting foreign capital to Turkey to meet its oil bill, and will demonstrate the more liberal economic policies of the two-month-old government of Süleyman Demirel, the sources said.

With the measures, the government expects the International Monetary Fund to release pledged credits to Turkey, which the IMF has held up apparently because of the country's political and economic uncertainty.

In turn, the IMF "green light" should encourage Western banks, governments and institutions to hand over cash aid, guaranteed last year, the sources added.

They said the package had been ready for several weeks, but did not say why its announcement had been delayed.

But Western diplomats here said criticism of the nation's politicians by military chiefs

had held up publication of the measures.

Bankers, meanwhile, said the package is expected to abolish the two-tier exchange rate system for the Turkish lira against the dollar, established by the previous government of Bulent Ecevit last June.

At present, the dollar is traded at 47 lira, except in the case of Turkish oil and fertilizer imports and her agricultural exports, where the rate is 35 lira to the dollar.

The IMF had been pushing both the Ecevit government and that of Demirel for several

months to scrap the two-tier system.

The bankers said the devaluation would bring the exchange rate to a uniform level.

The devaluation on the present general rate of 47 to one dollar was expected to be at least 20 per cent, they said.

The consumer prices of petrol, diesel and fuel oil were expected to rise by at least 20 per cent, they added.

The package would include moves aimed at bringing at least 100 billion lira into the treasury by reducing state credits to the loss-making nationalized industries, as well as by cutting state subsidies on some items.

forward by Mr Sainsbury are aimed at removing from the Competition Bill wide government powers for price control.

The issue is whether as a remedy for anti-competitive practices there should be the use of powers set out in the Fair Trading Act of 1973.

This Act allows for orders to regulate prices of goods or services when the Monopolies Commission believes they are operating, or could operate, against the public interest.

Such powers are wider than those which governed the work of the Price Commission. Under new proposals it would be possible to order a reduction of prices, and there would be no time limit for controlling particular prices, unlike the 12 month maximum available under the Price Commission legislation.

Mr Weir is worried that such wide powers would bring great uncertainty into business planning. A dangerous situation could also be created if a more interventionist government came into power, he believes.

The Consortium believes that if price control is necessary it should be accomplished either by separate legislation or by amendment to existing legislation. Mr Weir said: "This Government believes in the free market economy and should be wary of introducing price distortions by regulating prices or pricing policies."

Other amendments being put

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Subsidies for coking coal in the German steel industry

From Mr P. J. B. Steele

Sir, Reference has been made by the trade union side and its supporters in the present steel industry dispute to subsidies on the coking coal used by the German steel industry, which it is implied, in some way balance the capital and other subsidies given to BSC by HM Government. Your readers may care to be further informed on this matter.

Along among the EEC steel makers, those in Germany are formally prevented from importing coal—although it seems likely that successive Labour governments have applied heavy political pressure on BSC to this end. In September and October 1979, the mean price for acceptable grades of coal from the world market was DM177 per tonne, while the prices listed by Ruhr Kohle for equivalent grades ranged from DM177 to 187 per tonne. To cushion the impact of this high extra cost on consumers, the German steel industry receives a subsidy enabling it to sell at a much lower price.

For the period January to

September 1979 the subsidy was fixed at DM49.70 per tonne. Although substantial, it will be readily seen that this does not cover the difference in price between German coking coal and that obtainable from non-EEC countries. Australia, being the cheapest source, the subsidy reduced Ruhr Kohle prices to approximately DM127 per tonne.

The difference between that price and the world price was bridged by the two parties, Ruhr Kohle and the steel industry who split the difference. Thus in effect in October 1979 the German steel industry was paying DM122 per tonne of coking coal, a few per cent more than the world price. The cost of this exercise to the German taxpayer was probably in excess of DM1,000m about £257.1m at prevailing rates of exchange. It is of interest that the cash limit for capital requirements imposed on BSC for 1979-80 was £700m.

It could be argued that the German steel industry benefits indirectly from the subsidy on coking coal in that it can buy domestic coal at well below the

cost price of that material. It would seem more appropriate, however, to regard this as not quite adequate compensation for a costly burden imposed on the industry by the government in preventing imports of cheaper coal.

It could also be reasonably argued that if the German steel industry purchased coal in Australia like their Japanese rivals, this would push up the price of Australian coal on the world market. This, however, ignores the likelihood that the German industry would invest in Australian coal mining if it became a substantial purchaser of such coal, reducing prices.

In short, it does not seem as though the argument that the coking coal subsidy given to the German coal industry is in some way equivalent to the very much greater capital subsidies given to BSC is particularly soundly based.

P. J. B. STEELE, Manager, Market Research Division, The Economist Intelligence Unit Ltd, 27 St James's Place, London, SW1A 1NT.

## Takeover threat to the UK insurance houses from American brokers

From Mr R. Ellison

Sir, The largest insurance broker in the world, Marsh & McLennan of New York, has made an offer for the shares of C. T. Bowring, one of the largest United Kingdom insurance brokers. Bowring wish to keep their independence and are fighting the takeover but if the Marsh & McLennan price for the shares is too good to refuse, the British institutions and pension funds, who own a sizeable proportion of the shares, will probably sell.

The Lloyd's of London ruling which prevents outside insurance interests from buying more than 20 per cent of the shares in and Lloyd's broker is probably going to be lifted and if it is not, ways round this ruling have already been found. And so another British company will become American-owned. Meanwhile in the wings, other American brokers hide their time for takeover bids of other British insurance companies.

In the case of Bowring, they also own a merchant bank, a finance house and a small fleet of ships.

It is not difficult to foresee these insurance broking takeovers being followed by similar takeovers of the larger British insurance companies by their American counterparts. And on the Lloyd's side, the takeover of the Lloyd's syndicates, surely it is only a matter of time before Lloyd's of London becomes American dominated.

The British insurance industry is part of this country's

financial strength and this can clearly be seen by their contribution to the invisible earnings in the monthly trade balance figures. For example, Bowring C. T. Bowring, one of the largest United Kingdom insurance brokers, Bowring wish to keep their independence and are fighting the takeover but if the Marsh & McLennan price for the shares is too good to refuse, the British institutions and pension funds, who own a sizeable proportion of the shares, will probably sell.

If British financial institutions such as clearing banks, merchant banks, insurance companies and insurance brokers cannot succeed in matching or improving upon these American bids to keep Bowring and other companies British-owned, should they not be looking to similar financial institutions in Europe so that they can forge a partnership with the American financial support is found, why not a counter-bid for American companies now bidding?

The large premium income emanating from the United States is very important to the Lloyd's and insurance company market in London and from the American point of view, London offers much needed additional capacity and a competitive alternative to their own market. Surely it is better for both sides to continue a good business relationship which has stood the passage of time rather than initiate takeover proceedings because, at the present time, one side is not getting everything it wants.

Yours faithfully, ROBIN ELLISON, 27 Campden Grove, London, W8, January 18.

## Clearing the air over cigarette advertising

From Mr P. R. J. Sinnott

Sir, In yesterday's Business Diary you ran a piece on Metra's report on cigarette advertising and consumption.

We should like to correct the impression, which some readers may have formed from this, regarding the DHSS's position. The suggestion in the article is that the Department was "galled" at the "attempt to gain official credence" for the report. The fact is that the Department agreed the wording of those parts of the report which mention them and they raised no objection to the report's publication. Neither did they raise objection to the press statement which included the comment about their being satisfied with the technical merit of the investigation.

However, we should also make clear that at no time was it implied by the Department or by ourselves that the Department's policy formulation in regard to cigarette advertising would necessarily reflect the findings of the report.

We should also like to clarify our comments on the probable effect of a complete ban on cigarette advertising.

Metra's study was of the statistical association between cigarette advertising and cigarette consumption over the period 1958-1978, and no evidence was found for such an association (ie, on normal statistical criteria). The period studied included some very substantial fluctuations in cigarette advertising (at one point the quarterly figure was roughly halved in 18 months). Of course, statistics deals in levels of probability or improbability rather than certainties, but it does seem most unlikely that fluctuations of up to 50 per cent in advertising cannot be seen to have had an effect on sales, a reduction to zero would have a statistically measurable effect. Strictly speaking, a complete ban is something of which there is no prior experience in this country and its result cannot be predicted for certain, but extrapolation from our results suggests an insignificant effect on sales.

P. R. J. SINNOTT, Metra Consulting, St Mary's House, 42 Vicarage Crescent, London SW11 3LD, January 16

## Practical problem of Employment Bill

From the Director, the Contractors' Plant Association Sir, Mr Hopkins of Royal Wilton's carpeted me mildly in your columns on January 14, about the extent of the discretion an industrial tribunal would have in an unfair dismissal case, arising from the provisions of the proposed Employment Bill, and a new closed shop introduced without a ballot or an 80 per cent favourable vote.

In considering the niceties of this somewhat secondary aspect of the major issue (referred to later), one must not lose sight of the difficulties—of the obscurities, sometimes deliberately introduced—that often arise when seeking to establish what were the real grounds for a dismissal. This is even before one considers the actual track record of industrial tribunal judgments. Their consistency or otherwise in principle and their compatibility with other areas of the law.

Feeling alone, I hope, in believing, however, that the Employment Bill does require this and not only newspaper reports—but other sources

up the systematic theft of his neighbours' cars. He infers that if he were foolish enough to do this, then he knows and deserves the consequences; but these consequences arise from the general law of the land, enacted by proper constitutional means.

It is his parallel really a satisfactory one to draw with the circumstances leading to a man's dismissal because two other parties have agreed to alter his rules of employment, by introducing a new closed shop on a less than 80 per cent favourable vote, or no vote at all? Moreover, many such dismissal cases would in practice be brought off, or threatened off, before getting to an industrial tribunal.

The primary aspect of the major issue about which I first wrote, was and remains that the proposed Employment Bill will not require a ballot and an 80 per cent vote in favour of those concerned before any new closed shops can be introduced. It is commonly believed, however, that the Employment Bill does require this and not only newspaper reports—but other sources

which should know better—are perpetuating this myth by still continuing to imply that it will.

The real, practical problem is how to amend the proposed Employment Bill and/or other legislation, so as to prevent new closed shops being introduced without both a secret ballot and an overwhelming majority in favour of those affected. This can only be done either by an outright legal prohibition of so doing or by adequately severe and painful disincentives or penalties imposed on those taking such actions.

Recent events in the steel dispute are again showing that an effective solution to this problem is increasingly urgent. We must not pretend either that the problem does not exist or that the current provisions in the proposed Employment Bill will solve it.

Yours faithfully, R. C. SANSOM, Director, The Contractor's Plant Association, London SE17 9PY, January 16, 28 Eccleston Street,

## Alexanders

DISCOUNT COMPANY LIMITED

### Results for 1979



Subject to final audit, the balance of loss for the year after rebate and taxation and making transfers from Contingency and General Reserve amounted to £230,000. (1978—The balance after a transfer from Contingency Reserve, amounted to a credit of £200,000).

After the transfer of £1,000,000 the General Reserve is £4,000,000 (1978—£5,000,000).

A final dividend of 11.50p per share (£82,000) on the £4,889,638 Issued Ordinary Capital is recommended. (1978—11.50p per share £559,000 on Capital £4,861,638). This makes a distribution for the year of £782,000 (1978—£778,000).

The balance of profit carried forward will be £421,000 (1978—£1,461,000).

The fall in MLR early in the year enabled some profit to be made. However the two increases in June and November resulted in heavy depreciation and trading losses. These losses have been met by a reduction in both published and inner reserves. However, in view of the cyclical nature of the Company's business and the large retentions of previous years the Board has decided to maintain the final dividend at last year's level.

The Balance Sheet total at the year end was £468m (1978—£480m). Our bill holding was little changed at £367m (1978—£351m) but the total of bills under redemptions was £300m (1978—£173m). Sterling CDs holding was £8m (1978—£38m); our increased holding of Dollar CDs at £22m (1978—£7m) is a consequence of recently opening a New York office. The holding of Gilts was £19m (1978—£5m). Local Authority securities, all of which were of the floating rate type, were £47m (1978—£21m).

1 St Swithin's Lane, London EC4N 8DN

01-526 5467

TELEX 889126



BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

## Some relief for the discount houses

The gilt-edged market continued to run ahead strongly yesterday with gains in long dated stocks running to a further 14 points. Barring some major disaster today, that should ensure that both new gilt issues and the market tending to favour the £25 paid despite the fact that prospective investors are almost certainly going to have to pitch their bids some way above the minimum tender price.

That is not to say that the short-dated stock looks unattractive against the market. There is some question here, however, as to the availability of money for the stock from the banking sector not to mention the issue of the discount houses' confidence to expose themselves to risk after the savaging they took at the end of last year.

Money considerations must presumably start to apply at the longer end of the market too at some stage. Certainly, inflows of new money to the long-term institutions have been strong recently, and many fund managers will be prepared to run down liquidity if they are now confident that the gilt edged market can go only one way this year.

In addition, the behaviour of sterling yesterday suggested that overseas money may be coming back into the ring. Even so, this market must be seen to take a longer pause for breath before too long. If tomorrow's long stock goes on application, it would be no surprise to see a large fully paid issue.

Meanwhile, the recovery in the gilt market and the fall in period rates must have brought at least some relief to the discount houses, albeit that they may be treading gingerly. Some houses may have read their crystal balls rather better than others last autumn but the three-point rise in M.L.R. in November must still have proved costly.

Certainly, Alexanders were making no bones yesterday about the fact that M.L.R. rose rather more sharply than they had been expecting and on this occasion their year end (December 31) could not have fallen at a more ill-timed moment in terms of the capital value of their book.

The net result is that there is an after-tax loss of £250,000 after a £1m transfer from general reserve and an unspecified transfer from inner reserves. With trading conditions better since the year end, and particularly active and profitable in the commercial bill market, the group has, however, maintained its dividend.

The hope must be that this year will be significantly better on the back of falling interest rates. With something of a question mark over their future role in a reformed monetary system, the houses must have a strong desire to rebuild their reserves as quickly as possible. The uncertainty is reflected in Alexanders' yield of 10.9 per cent with the shares at 209p.

### The Bowring bid

### An offer on the table

Undismayed by the out and out rejection of the Bowring bid, Marsh & McLennan has decided to go to shareholders on the same bid terms that it proposed to the British group a fortnight ago.

From this side of the Atlantic those terms look a shade less exciting than they did two weeks ago, thanks to further dollar weakness and some slippage in M & M's Wall Street rating. The cash and share offer now works out at slightly under 163p per Bowring share compared with over 165p originally.

And with no suggestion of underwriting as yet for the share element of the Marsh bid both for the exchange factor and Wall Street thinking on the takeover could prove crucial over the next few weeks. New York analysts are generally sceptical about disputed takeovers in insurance broking and their views could put further downward pressure on the United States group's rating and thus the value of the Bowring bid.

Although Bowring cannot count on many allies among United Kingdom shareholders, success for Marsh would begin to look extremely doubtful if the offer slipped below 160p.

Among a welter of conditional clauses—

some 16 in all—Marsh declares that the bid would be dependant on Lloyd's approval. But it has clearly been given at least tacit approval to go along the same route as Frank B. Hall in its takeover of Leslie & Godwin, and divest itself of 75 per cent of the Lloyd's broking interests. That is of course unless Lloyd's rules on foreign ownership change as a result of the Fisher Report due in April.

Meanwhile, the Bowring board is clearly girding itself for a battle royal, while for its part, the market is concerning itself purely with price. The shares at 143p, unmoved by the Marsh announcement are still signalling doubts.

### Dividends

### To cut or not to cut?

After a year in which dividends will probably have risen by over 20 per cent—largely thanks to the once-and-for-all payments that companies like BP, Shell and Unilever made once dividend controls came to an end, which bumped up payments for the third quarter of 1979 by 40 per cent—the question for companies now is what they do about their dividend payments henceforth. Profits are certainly going to be less buoyant this year, and in some industries—engineering, textiles, specialist chemicals—they can be expected to fall, even under historic cost accounting.

Apply current cost accounting instead—as most large companies are likely to have to do for accounting periods beginning in 1980—and the profits of a fair number of quoted companies are going to disappear altogether.

As to what they should do about their dividends under these circumstances, opinions are sharply divided. First there are the shareholders who want to see dividends rise regardless, or, at the very worst, stand still. They argue that this sort of cyclical fluctuation in profit is essentially short-term, and that there is no reason why their own cash flow should be similarly affected.

It is an argument which tends to be loud in the land when profits are on the way down, and conspicuous by its absence when they are on the way up. Nevertheless, it is not entirely without merit. It assumes a relationship between a company and its shareholders similar to that which applies in Germany: the company looks after the interests of its shareholders through thick and thin; and the shareholders responded by supporting the company likewise.

As it is, few companies in Britain could contemplate giving such a guarantee, even if shareholders were prepared to make a reciprocal commitment: in most cases their real (inflation adjusted) return on capital is too low to give such hostages to fortune. Given an acceptance in principle that dividends will fluctuate, the purists would then have them cut out altogether unless the company is making a real return on capital sufficient to cover them.

The argument here is simple enough: if the company pays dividends which have not been generated out of profits, it is effectively eating into its own assets; and though shareholders may not notice the results immediately, they will be reflected sooner or later in the price that they can get for their shares.

The third strand of argument, developed most recently by de Zoete & Bevan, holds that inflation makes it difficult for a company to obtain a real return on assets, partly because those assets themselves are rising in value; and that it is legitimate for a company to distribute to shareholders, some of the benefits of that increase in value. The problem here, however, is that in the last analysis those assets are worth what they will earn, or what someone else will pay for them; and judging in the meantime how much can safely be distributed makes management's task worse than ever. In the meantime, the probability is that dividends will rise by a great deal less this year—Phillips & Drew suggest by an average 5 per cent, with average cover of somewhere between one and 1½ times on an inflation adjusted basis. The implication is that the payout is going to decline (once again) in real terms. So much for equities as a hedge against inflation.

If one were to talk of a major difference of opinion between the Treasury and the Bank of England on the subject of control of the monetary system, one would be accused of engaging in the sort of sensationalism that gives the media a bad name. So I shall avoid that pitfall and confine myself to the observations that the Bank of England's first draft of the long awaited consultative document on monetary control was received with less than total enthusiasm when it reached the Treasury last month; that the Treasury is said to be working on a re-draft of its own; that Mrs Thatcher cannot understand why it is all taking such a long time; and that the consultative document, when it goes out, will be a joint Treasury Bank of England paper.

A key to the nature of the differences can be gleaned from a phrase used by Mr Nigel Lawson, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, in his City dinner speech last Friday. At the end of his remarks about the Government's determination, having willed the ends of anti-inflation not to shrink from the means, he said "and through them, with whatever marginal improvements

in technique we may find from time to time, we can and will achieve our objectives".

In short the impression is given that the Bank of England's concern is with the techniques of monetary control and measurement; while Treasury ministers at least are much more concerned about the application of monetary policy, and regard the techniques as something best relegated to a technical appendix in the consultative document.

In the realm of policy the central problem never changes. It is that you cannot at one and the same time control the volume of money and its price. The logic of everything the Government says about its monetary policy implies that the price (ie, the interest rate level) is the independent variable. The problem always, however, is that in practice authorities in the market place can never quite bring themselves to accept that they should not have a target for the rate of interest.

The second area of strain between the Bank and the Treasury relates to the marketing of the Government's debt. Looked at from the Bank the present situation is strangely like the period in 1976 when Treasury officials and then Labour ministers were taking the line that technical market incompetence

was to blame for the gross instability of interest rates. Now Treasury officials and conservative ministers seem to be making much the same noises.

The Bank, if precedent is anything to go by, will be dusting down the same basic answers. It doubts deep down whether changes in the technique for marketing debt will make any significant improvement. It points to the fact that in the end it manages to handle a huge volume of debt, new and old, each year. It is willing to try experiments, like a limited tender system, if only to keep critics satisfied and to show that they do little to alter basic realities. And it argues that the real problem is the size and nature of the Government's borrowing requirement and that nothing will come right until that is reduced.

All of which is true, so far as it goes. But it ignores one inescapable fact, namely that the primary market for government debt is not functioning properly. Whenever one points this out, much huffing and puffing ensues. But the first test of an efficiently functioning capital market is that it should provide continuous dealing at prices which do not move excessively between one transaction and the next.

In contrast to this test of technical

market efficiency, the primary gilt market has regularly ceased to function at all: prices have not adjusted by gradual steps; and, at times, a minor change in price has made the difference between the Government broker being unable to do business for weeks on end and his being overwhelmed by buyers. Certainly the size of the Government's borrowing makes all this worse, but it does not create the fundamental problem.

In the end, of course, the market absorbs all the new debt that the Government wants to raise in the year, which makes the roller-coaster of sales and interest rates in the intervening months all the more undesirable. The situation arises because it is a very curious market, dominated by just one large seller (the Government) and a number of institutional buyers, all of whom tend to do the same thing at the same time.

Given this curious market, it is pointless to come one side or the other for what happens. It were better if the authorities and the institutions approached with a more positive and open mind than they have in the past proposals as to how the roller-coaster path of gilt sales during the year could be smoothed. That would be more than a marginal improvement in technique.

Fred Singleton describes the political tensions and economic weaknesses which could cause problems after President Tito's death

## How vulnerable is Yugoslavia?

The news of President Tito's serious illness came at a time when relations between East and West were at their lowest ebb for many years. Inevitably, the consequences of his death both for Yugoslavia and for world peace are seen in the context of big power tensions.

President Carter has just given his policy statement of 1976, which said that the United States would not intervene to help Yugoslavia in the event of a Soviet attack, and he has now joined the chorus of "hands off Yugoslavia", which is being sung by a variety of political leaders from Mrs Thatcher on the right to Mr Enver Hoxha, the Albanian leader, on the left.

The foreign ministers of the European Economic Community, meeting a few days after the news of Tito's illness, have also changed their tune and instructed their negotiators to reach a rapid agreement on the terms of the EEC's relations with Yugoslavia. These negotiations have been dragging on for more than two years.

So long in fact that the five-year agreement reached in 1973 has had to be indefinitely extended until new terms can be settled.

Yugoslavia's economy depends heavily on trade with Western Europe and the combined effects of the oil crisis, world economic recession and EEC protectionism have had serious repercussions in Yugoslavia.

The Yugoslavs have been struggling to maintain the momentum of their industrialization drive in spite of the unfavourable world climate. This has involved them in a huge trade deficit with the developed world, and especially the EEC, which supplies them with capital goods, modern technology and even some of the raw materials needed to feed their growing industries.

Unfortunately, the EEC will not take sufficient Yugoslav exports to meet the cost of these imports. Last year exports to the EEC paid for only 35 per cent of imports. Though Yugoslavs have from time to time hinted during the negotiations that, if the West will not help them, they will be forced to look either to their partners in Comecon (Yugoslavia has a form of association which falls short of full membership) or to the third world, this is not a reasonable option. Comecon countries already take more than 40 per cent of exports, compared with the EEC's 23 per cent, but they cannot supply Yugoslavia with the industrial goods now imported from the West.

The deficit with the EEC is



President Tito sitting alone: he has no clear successor and there are fears that Yugoslavia's unity will be at risk when his unique influence has been lost.

partly covered by invisibles such as income from tourism, remittances of Yugoslav workers in West Europe and from transport earnings.

On only three occasions since the economic reforms of 1965 (which opened up the economy to international competition) has Yugoslavia's balance of payments been in the black.

In the past few years it has been over \$1,000m in deficit. In order to cover this Yugoslavia has borrowed heavily, her loan repayments last year amounting to \$1,800m. Last September many of the creditors assembled in Belgrade for the International Monetary Fund/World Bank annual meeting and the Yugoslavs took the opportunity to negotiate a rescheduling of their debt, in order to lessen the immediate burden.

The Yugoslav authorities have been making desperate efforts to stabilize the economy, while at the same time maintaining an industrial growth rate of about 8 per cent. Their problems include ones which are old acquaintances of the British, such as inflation, now 30 per cent, unemployment, now 800,000 or 15 per cent of the public sector work force; and low productivity.

There are some special Yugoslav features. These include a cumbersome machinery of decision-making through

the decentralized system of self-management. This may be democratic, but does not make for economic consistency and frequently requires the intervention of the state, as with last year's stabilization programme, which affected prices and included curbs on investment and control of imports.

According to Yugoslav theory, the state should take back seat and allow decision on the economy to be taken through self-management agreements and social compacts negotiated between autonomous "organizations of associated labour" under the gentle persuasion of various socio-political bodies, including the League of Communists. The late Mr Edvard Kardelj, one of Tito's closest associates for 40 years, believed that self-management would transcend the national tensions which

have in the past threatened national unity.

One of the most serious causes of weakness arises from the gap in living standards between the industrially developed northern republics, which once belonged to Austria-Hungary, and those of the south, which were under Turkish rule for 600 years. There are still large cultural differences between the peoples of the federation and these economic inequalities can give rise to tensions which may threaten the unity of the country.

To take the most extreme example, the gap between the per capita income of the Albanian-speaking, mainly Muslim, peoples of the province of Kosovo and the Roman Catholic Slovenes at the top end of the scale is now one to six. In 1947 it was one to three.

It was a constant theme of

President Tito's speeches on his journeys round Yugoslavia during recent years that the preservation of the brotherhood and unity of the Yugoslav people must include a leveling up of those living in the poorest areas.

The haste with which the EEC ministers agreed to break the log jam which had held up the agreement with Yugoslavia suggests that they at last realize that the threat to Yugoslav integrity may not come from Soviet military intervention, but from internal tensions made worse by severe economic problems. It has no doubt that concessions will be made to allow more Yugoslav goods to enter the EEC and that there will be more loans and the encouragement of joint EEC-Yugoslav enterprises.

Unless this happens, a worsening of economic conditions in the aftermath of Tito's death will provide opportunities for outsiders to fish in troubled waters. Mr Brezhnev does not like Tito's non-aligned policy and would not doubt hope for a pro-Soviet regime which would attach Yugoslavia to the eastern block. There are emigre nationalists in the West—especially the Croats—who would like to see federal Yugoslavia disintegrate.

The Bulgarians also have claims on Yugoslav Macedonia which have been encouraged from time to time by the Soviet Union.

There are plenty of centrifugal forces to be contained, but there are also reasons for optimism. Yugoslavia usually sinks the differences in the face of outside threats. Tito has since 1970 prepared his successors for the problems which he will leave behind.

There is reason to hope that the world's leaders are now realizing that a strong, prosperous, non-aligned Yugoslavia provides a better buffer for European peace than a weak, divided country dominated by one or other of the major powers.

The author is Reader in Yugoslav Studies at the University of Bradford.

## Helping the world's poor to feed themselves

Andrew Lycett

The United Nations newest autonomous agency has entered its third year of operation and is beginning to find its feet. The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) was conceived in the wake of the 1974 World Food Conference which identified the need for a special United Nations agency devoted entirely to funding food production in the poorest regions of developing countries.

As the conference noted at the time, it was these countries which often failed to match population growth with increases in agricultural output, requiring them to import expensive foodstuffs, mainly from the western world.

The situation was bad enough in 1974; it is worse now. As the fund's president, Abdelmuhsein al-Sudary, from Saudi Arabia said in his address to the fund's governing council in Rome last week, food production per capita in developing countries has grown by only 0.6 per cent in the years from 1970 to 1978 (the same as in the sixties) and in Africa it has actually fallen by 1.2 per cent.

In 1977/78 developing countries had to import 70 million tons of grain to feed their people, compared with 30 million tons in 1969/71 and this cereal deficit is expected to rise to 91 million tons by 1990.

But the fund is making a start and in a novel manner. In 1974 members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries were just beginning to understand the extent of the political and economic power resulting from their oil price increases in the previous year. The World Food Conference wanted their cash. They were determined not to give it away for nothing.

The oil producers demanded a fundamental restructuring of the traditional United Nations agency set-up if they were to part with their money in the way expected.

Seeing perhaps a means of enhancing their prestige among third world countries, the Opec members lobbied for a tripartite system. Executive authority would be vested in a 24-man council made up of eight members each from industrialized, oil producing and developing countries.

Wrangling over some of the finer details held up inauguration of the fund, but eventually, in December, 1977, IFAD

raised its initial three-year tranche of \$1,000m (57 per cent contributed by industrialized countries and 41 per cent by Opec) and opened its doors in temporary headquarters in the capital of world food diplomacy, Rome.

Its first year was quiet enough. It promised \$120m in very favourable loans for projects in ten developing countries. Then in 1979 it raised its commitments to \$380m spread over 20 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. This year it has to get rid of its remaining \$500m or so before the undoubtedly heated topic of replenishment comes up at its next governing council meeting.

This has involved a rapid and somewhat unsettling turnover of projects for an interim organization. The fund has had to be very clear about its objectives. It sees itself as a catalyst, ensuring that rural development projects, necessarily conceived in cooperation with other agencies, do not lack important financial inputs.

It has looked particularly for schemes which not only increase food production, but also improve employment opportunities, nutrition and income distribution.

There have been no lack of applicants for its cash, but many requests for help have been made in a vague, haphazard manner, without any evident understanding of the strictness of United Nations lending criteria. The fund has been forced to go out to certain countries to help them to prepare projects.

Forty-five project identification and preparation missions went out last year and so eager were some countries for a share of the funds that IFAD was able to make what it believes were demanding stipulations

about the eventual beneficiaries of its aid. Aware of the tendency of most development assistance to go to urban dwellers or, if it reaches the countryside, only richer farmers, the fund has prevailed on the Pakistan Government, for example, to agree that its Small Farmers Credit Project (in which IFAD has contributed \$30m) should benefit only farmers with fewer than 25 hectares.

In Nicaragua a \$10m loan will go to help those with less than 10 hectares of land, and another \$500,000 is earmarked for local institutions to ensure that the larger sum gets to its rightful destination.

But the typical IFAD project is an integrated rural development scheme. With as little as \$12,45m loan to Sierra Leone, for example, 6,000 farm families will benefit from better agricultural practices and facilities, including credit and marketing networks, and further 25,000 people and animals will benefit from agricultural improvements.

Not everyone has been pleased about IFAD's progress. Some industrialized countries believe it is too eager to rid itself of its funds. Cooperating agencies such as the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation, have sometimes seen it more as a competitor than an ally in the hunt for suitable development projects.

There is doubt now about the oil producers' continued strong commitment after last week's decision to reconstitute the \$1,600m Opec Special Fund (through which oil-producing countries channel their aid for IFAD) as a project implementing agency in its own right.

Recipient nations have no complaints, however, and praise has come from nations as divergent as Britain, which offered IFAD an avuncular pat on the head at last week's governing council, and China, which chose the occasion to make its first application to join and contribute towards an international financial agency.

Many other countries supported the idea of replenishment at the end of 1980, without committing themselves to any figures. The fund itself has estimated its requirements for the next three years at \$1,500m to \$2,000m.

It deserves another chance to show its worth. But is there still the worldwide political will to raise food production that there was in 1974?

## Business Diary: An immovable feast? • Brighton hopes

It is a hard decision for those whose diaries have the double entry of Westminster and Canterbury next to the date, March 25.

Better to be preached at by a priest than a politician? Better not to have to make the choice at all.

Those who plump for Canterbury will see the environment of Dr Robert Runcie as the new Archbishop of Canterbury. The rest will exchange a state of grace for a graceless state in the Commons to hear the Chancellor outline his Budget.

Judging by the early indications of what the Chancellor has in store for us, it seems clear that the presence of God would be appreciated at both occasions.

What remains unclear is why this sad clash, with its attendant dilemmas for our parliamentarians, not to say our newspaper schedulers, should have arisen in the first place.

The date of the enthronement could not be changed. It was announced some months ago by the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury.

So why not, one asks, change the date of the Budget? The Prime Minister wants an announcement before Easter, which precludes any other week than that have a Budget. Why not then have the Thursday on the Monday favourite day, the other for major government announcements?

A Tuesday Budget, the Treasury told me, is "a de facto rule which has been observed in practically all occasions"—in practice for 1963 and a few years before, when the announcement came on a Wednesday, though

no one appears to know why. The Treasury rule out a Monday Budget on the grounds that the Cabinet meeting which always precedes it would then have to take place on the previous Friday because ministers would be unwilling to meet over the weekend.

Utterly trustworthy as ministers are, no one wants them walking around with such a mass of secret details in their heads for a couple of days. There is also the question of telling the monarch, whose weekend would presumably be disturbed by a Monday Budget. As head of the Church she might have welcomed the opportunity in this case, but we will let that pass.

Wednesday, Thursday and Friday are out because they would extend the debate following the Budget into the next week. Yes, the Treasury does realize that even with the usual Tuesday Budget, the debate inevitably carries over into the following Monday, but it is a trend which it does not wish to encourage.

So Tuesday it is to be and the date of Canterbury must take place under its full quota of politicians, whose presence, though not mandatory, is customary, especially in the case of those who are members of the Church Commissioners.

The traditions of the Church, it seems, must give way before the traditions of the Treasury.

A hazard of the electronic age, facing Florida storekeepers, is that their large number of retired patrons, is underlined by a sign at the entrance to a Key West grocer: "Pacemaker wearers are warned that microwave ovens is in operation on these premises".

● The Independent Broadcasting Authority will have a new deputy chairman on February 1 in the shape of Lord Thomson of Monifieth, the former Commonwealth Secretary (when he was the MP, George Thomson), EEC Commissioner and political correspondent of the London Evening News.

And Lord Thomson has retained one diary date from his previous appointment as chairman of the Advertising Standards Authority.

On April 29 he will lead a workshop at the Advertising Association conference at Brighton on the sticky problem of how to deal with the advertising world's grey areas, notably drink and tobacco.

The IBA, of course, though it has a reputation for a tough line on what it regards as damaging advertising, relies on the advertising world for its income and this adds extra piquancy to what should prove a stimulating outing for the ad men.

Lord Thomson's role, if interesting, may prove of second degree significance. John Nott, the Secretary of State for Trade, is to open the conference and the advertising people hope that he will use this opportunity to say a few words about the Government's attitude towards the industry.

Ad men usually feel unloved and during the last Government's stint, with Roy Hattersley stepping on their toes at regular intervals, they had reason to.

The new Government, however, has proved less than forthcoming about its feelings and there will be many anxious figures in the Brighton Centre hoping that Nott will welcome them back into the fold.

companies are concerned, except for the creation of a breakfast-time news channel.

● It has taken ten years but the Government's flagship in the world of trade magazines has finally won a decent-sounding title.

The next issue of the Department of Industry weekly will be called *British Business*, a distinct improvement on *Trade and Industry*, which was itself a good deal better as title than the original *Board of Trade Journal*.

Managing editor Alan Williams said that the change reflected the magazine's development over the years and its documentation of government activities and statistics has certainly won it a healthy readership.

The circulation is 14,000, the readership is estimated at 50,000, and, unusually for government publications, it pays for itself.

People go to Reno and Las Vegas for the gambling tables not the drink, a point which has not been lost on the United States Treasury's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. Some time ago they swooped on one of the most expensive of Nevada's casino hotels, the MGM Grand in Reno which they found had been refitting bottles of spirits with cheaper drink and reclaiming the contents of half-drunk glasses. The MGM Grand has decided to settle matters with the Treasury out of court for \$125,000, the largest settlement ever in such a case.

David Hewson

Lord Thomson of Monifieth.

Between the two of them, Nott and Lord Thomson could do more to raise the advertising industry's spirits than a host of new accounts. One can only hope that no one will be disappointed.

Lord Thomson's brief sojourn in Brighton should provide a pleasant break from the IBA's increasingly fraught headquarters opposite Harrods in Knightsbridge.

In the next 12 months the authority has to consider and judge all the applications for commercial television company franchises which will be advertised later this week and cover the groundwork for the creation of the new Fourth Channel. The IBA workload may have doubled but the number of staff has not.

Television executives expect the overworked IBA to go largely for a policy of non-change as far as the present



## FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

## 'No concert party' at St Piran

By Michael Prest

Mr Malcolm Stone, recently appointed chairman of the controversial St Piran mining and property group, yesterday refused suggestions made in a Takeover Panel submission that his company is controlled by a "concert party" headed by the Far East financier, Mr J. J. Raper.

At the same time, Mr Stone outlined his plans for meeting consistent criticism by shareholders of a number of investments and deals in Australia, South East Asia and Hongkong. Mr Stone said he did not expect that St Piran's next report "would contain any auditors' qualifications."

Fairmont State, a Thai company, will repay loans to St Piran and to Siam Vidyay, another Thai company. It will also repatriate profits owing to St Piran and pay management fees to St Piran Hongkong, wholly owned by St Piran. Fairmont will raise capital to develop its activities, leaving St Piran with 43 per cent.

Similar action is to be taken in St Piran's two other most contentious areas, Australia and Hongkong. All interests in Australia will be liquidated, Mr Stone admitting that the company's attempt to buy control

of Metals Exploration through Mid-East Minerals and Daymin Investments, both Australian companies, had been a mistake.

St Piran is in addition to abandon property development in Hongkong, leaving St Piran Hongkong as the holding company for the Far Eastern interests. Among these is tin mining in Malaysia, which Mr Stone intends to expand.

But Mr Stone admitted that the current Department of Trade enquiry into the group had damaged its business. Bankers had demanded collateral for loans, which had been provided, and the pressures to which the board had been subjected had resulted in several resignations. Nevertheless, Mr Stone intends to stay and has asked his board not to resign.

He sees no conflict between being chairman of St Piran and managing director of Gasco Investments, a Hongkong company that holds 25.6 per cent of St Piran. Gasco, whose chairman and majority shareholder is Mr Raper, is at the centre of shareholder allegations that in 1978, it had transferred to St Piran, a Luxembourg company, and Aerolinas Cordoba, a Panama company, direction of St Piran in the hands of overseas nominees directed by Mr Raper.

## Stock markets

## Bold start but some profit taking evident by close

Undeterred by cautious week-end comment, both gilt edged and ordinary shares went ahead yesterday, simply carrying on where they left off last week. But second thoughts, at least in equities, gained the upper hand towards the close as some buyers took their profits.

Gilt edged were spurred by hopes of lower interest rates and many dealers are taking seriously ministerial protestations about cutting Government spending by a further £2,000m and of increasing revenue from duties and taxes. They therefore look forward to a reduction in the flood of gilt edged stocks, depressing prices and siphoning off money that would otherwise have gone into shares.

Operators have also remembered that Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor, is bent on a Budget (March 25) that will do something for investors, possibly by mitigating capital transfer tax, as well as gains tax and stamp duty, though the last is a good revenue earner. So few people are selling.

Apart from an investors' budget, operators were also going for an early steel peace. However there was again no concrete sign of one and confidence ebbed as the day wore on. Gilt rose by up to £2 but best gains were not held while

short dated stocks climbed by up to £1 before conceding half their gains. Observers predict a warm welcome for the two new tap stocks next Wednesday, if the present mood of confidence persists.

The London dated tap in particular will have more than three weeks to run in £25 paid.

Pleasureman jumped 22p to 178p. It is understood that Mr Eddie Thomas, managing director of the company, is moving to a new office in London on Saturday. Operators moved in sniffing a bid as his shares came on to the market. Grand Met has 30 per cent. However it is thought that he was not a big shareholder.

form and could attract a good speculative following.

Shares started cautiously and at the 10 am calculation the FT index was 3,0 down at 456.8. At 3 pm it was, however, 3.0 up at 461.3 but many leaders boiled over and at the close the FT index was down 2.1 at 457.7.

Leading industrial encounters some buying after a slow start but this had fizzled out by lunch time and most showed net falls on the day at the close. ICI at 37p and BAT at 268p were both 2p off while a slide of 4p to 47p was experienced by Unilever. Hawker Siddeley

improved 2p to 190p and Glaxo at 478p and Bechams at 125p both remained firm. Further buying was experienced in Fisons, an active stock of late, rising 2p to 285p, after 295p, making dealers now think twice about the talk of a possible takeover from the German giant BASF.

The Decca twins improved 5p better in the ordinary at 350p and 4p firmer in the "A" at 309p prompted further by Friday's announcements of its interim figures, the sale of its PolyGram subsidiary and the expected talks with Rascal, unchanged at 204p. The market now believes that the terms should arrive some time this

week but they might still be some way below most expectations. GEC which has been tipped to make a counter bid for Decca firmed 1p to 359p.

Elsewhere in electricals Electrolux continued to make headway in a slim market rising 2p to 475p but Muehlbauer remained nervous ahead of this week's figures sliding 8p to 228p.

At the same time, shares of Cray Electronics were suspended at 225p, and 5p from Kennedy Smale at 73p. Talk of an inquiry into share dealings in Howard & Wyndham knocked 1p from the shares to 71p and the board changes and profits setback clipped 4p from Kitchen Queen 4p off at 23p.

Shares of Armitage Shanks were also suspended at 56p following an approach from a "United Kingdom-based company" and follows takeover attempt by R. & R. Johnson. Richard Tiles Pleasureman leap 22p to 178p, as speculation mounted following the death of the chairman.

Adverse comment provided upsets for Saga Holidays down 8p at 197p, and Horizon Travel 4p off at 225p, and 5p from Kennedy Smale at 73p. Talk of an inquiry into share dealings in Howard & Wyndham knocked 1p from the shares to 71p and the board changes and profits setback clipped 4p from Kitchen Queen 4p off at 23p.

Press comment and speculative buying provided firm spots in Metalbox 7p stronger at 56p, Valor 21p to 66p, and Associated Newspapers 4p to 294p.

Among companies reporting Alexander Discount rose 2p to 208p after satisfactory figures for the full year and Great Northern Investment Trust improved 2p to 102p, in an otherwise firm sector, after an extra dividend payment.

De La Rue continue to go on ward and upward. The shares rose a further 5p to 610p. At one time last year they were 320p. The obvious attraction is banknote printing but the development of a new computer controlled printing system called Lasergraver is part of Crossfield Electronics which could, some say, earn half group profits in a few years.

Equity turnover on January 18, was £181,566m (20,096 bargains). ACSI stocks yesterday, according to the Exchange Telegraph, were R.T.I., Tricom, Premier Cons, Western Mining, ICI, Bechams, Lombar, Barclays, National Westminster, P & O, Imperial Continental, Gas, Fisons, Great Universal Stores and Johnson Matthey.

## Latest results

Company	Sales	Profits	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
£m	£m	£m	per share	pence	date	total
Int of Fin	—	0.28(0.50)	1.1(—)	0.75(0.75)	11/4	(—)
Caledonian Asst C (T)	3.8(3.6)	0.22(0.25)	1.45(2.31)	0.6(—)	7/4	0.9(—)
Cray Electronics (I)	5.8(5.2)	—	—	3.9(—)	20/3	6.0(4.5)
Decca	3.9(4.2)	—	—	2.45(1.9)	28/2	3.7(3.1)
Gr Nthn Invest	—	—	—	0.40(0.41)	2/4	0.84(0.64)
Leda Invest Tst (F)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meggit Hldgs (F)	8.2(6.1)	—	—	0.59(0.59)	3/3	—
Mercantile House	1.4(1.7)	—	—	0.26(0.2)	—	0.5(0.2)
Palmerson Invest	—	0.09(0.066)	—	—	—	—
Ud Guarantee (F)	6.0(4.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Whamston Ldry (I)	0.39(0.34)	—	—	—	—	—

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.428. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. a=loss. b=income and surplus on sales.

## Creditors oppose winding-up of Gilmore

A group of creditors with claims totalling almost £833,000 against Gilmore and Partners (Smithfield), the meat firm which collapsed in December, are challenging a petition to wind up the company compulsorily, the High Court heard yesterday.

Mr Justice Dillon adjourned the petition for two weeks to allow the opposing creditors to put in evidence.

Mr Eben Hamilton, counsel for the petitioners, Trans Oceanic Meat Company—trade creditors for £11,000, said that Gilmore and Partners had been placed in creditors' voluntary winding-up after the presentation of the petition on December 11.

But Trans Oceanic, and two supporting creditors with debts totalling £629,000, were "not content" that the voluntary winding-up should continue.

Miss Mary Arden, who appeared for five opposing creditors with claims totalling £651,000, said that three others had written to her instructing solicitors saying they also wished to oppose.

## Mystery bidder stalking Cray

By Philip Robinson

A mystery United Kingdom company is stalking precision engineer and specialist pump maker Cray Electronics.

The Kent-based group called a halt to share dealings yesterday lunchtime at 35p as majority shareholder, international finance group Grindlays Holdings, announced that discussions had reached an advanced stage.

The predator, which Grindlays says wishes to remain nameless, wants to buy the group's industrial holding company, Capital for Industry, a five-subsidary electrical and mechanical engineering concern employing 1,700 people of

which Cray is the largest and only quoted part.

Net assets of Capital for Industry are in Grindlays' books at December 1978 at around £5m and at the suspension price, the stake in Cray is worth around £2.4m.

According to the market, the suspension and the announcement of talks came out of the blue.

But Mr Douglas Meekins, director of corporate finance at Grindlays and a director of Capital for Industry, said: "It did not quite come out of the blue, but we didn't have any trading links with the company which we are now in discussion. It is not a contest. I cannot say whether we have agreed a figure yet, and I can-

not say who they are, except that they are United Kingdom based."

The two have already seen the index on the board would be 34 of the Takeover Code which states that anyone who buys a 30 per cent stake in a company automatically has to make an offer for the rest of the share capital.

The bid announcement accompanied Cray's results for the six months to last October where profits eased back £30,000 to £224,000 on sales slightly ahead from £5.1m to £5.8m. The results reflect the impact of the engineering dispute.

The group is paying an unchanged gross interim of 0.81425p.

## Dividends up 40 pc in quarter

Dividend payments in the third quarter of 1979 were 40 per cent higher than those in the preceding quarter, according to the latest appropriation account on industrial and commercial companies from the Central Statistical Office. The increase followed the removal of dividend controls at the beginning of August.

Dividends for the six months to the end of September were,

in consequence, 19 per cent higher than those for the preceding six months.

Undistributed income for the period amounted to £8.1bn—a £1.5bn increase on the preceding six months; but some £1.2bn of this reflected stock appreciation. The increase in undistributed income, and a £0.1bn decrease in capital formation and stocks, reduced the deficit of industrial and commercial companies (as

measured by their net acquisition of financial assets) by £0.4bn in the second and third quarter of the year, to £2.1bn.

An increase in unpaid VAT and telephone bills helped to finance a £0.5bn reduction in the net borrowing requirement. As already reported, total income of industrial and commercial companies during the second and third quarter of 1979 increased by 22 per cent to £16.1bn.

## Pentos increases stake in Elliott

By Our Financial Staff

Pentos, the leisure garden to publishing group, is likely to ask for a place on the board of Elliott Group of Peterborough.

Last night, Pentos disclosed that it had lifted its stake to 20 per cent, buying a further 200,000 shares for around £60,000.

Corporate finance director Mr William Sanders said: "A place on the board would always be on the cards now and we should be arranging a meeting later on." But he insisted that Pentos has no intention of making a full bid for the group.

"We have been building up our stake for more than a year. We think the shares are a possibility for trading links," Mr Sanders said.

Elliott would fit in with Pentos' construction offshoot, Austin-Hall. The latest share buyings now give Pentos the option to make Elliott an associate company.

## Warning from Lloyds &amp; Scottish

Lloyds & Scottish the finance house almost 80 per cent owned by the Royal Bank of Scotland and Lloyds Bank, will have a very hard time to stand still in the current year.

Chairman, Mr George Duncan, warns shareholders in the annual report that the trading environment for the largest part of the group's business remains unhelpful. Unless there is a significant reduction in interest rates, margins will remain under pressure until the fixed rate lending book has been adapted to the new conditions, he said.

The balance-sheet shows that cash and liquid assets have been reduced from £17.4m to £8m.

## Mercantile House lifts forecast

The board of Mercantile House Holdings is predicting a higher trading for the year to April next than was indicated at the time of the offer for sale last July. Mercantile is paying an interim dividend of 5.7p and forecasting a final of 11.42p. This would make a total of 17.14p gross for the year, compared with the previous indication of 15.31p gross.

On turnover, 24 per cent greater at £4.91m, pre-tax profits of Mercantile rose by 15.5 per cent to £1.41m in the half-year to October 31 last. The profit does not include any contribution from Woolworth, which was taken over last December. There is no forecast of the year-end dividend. The board considers the result will be "satisfactory".

Mercantile House was formerly called M. W. Marshall Investments, the parent company of the international money brokers, M. W. Marshall and the Saturn Group.

## Inpac Automation joins Vickers

Vickers has acquired Inpac Automation Holdings, of Southall, Middlesex, which has net assets of £784,000.

Inpac is one of Europe's leading end-of-line packaging machinery manufacturers and the acquisition will significantly strengthen Vickers' capability in packaging, bottling and material handling. It will retain its separate identity and names.

and manufacturing base in Southall, but will operate closely with the packaging and bottling interests within the Vickers Engineering Group. Additional service facilities for Inpac in the North of England are expected to be established shortly.



Sir Leslie Smith, chairman of industrial gases and engineering group BOC International.

BOC International says he is optimistic about the future. In his annual statement he says: "We enter the new decade with high hopes and great confidence."

Last year a start was made on a re-examination of group policies, attitudes and objectives following the change in United Kingdom Government, the addition of Airco and a new group management. This process will continue.

## J. Halstead to buy trailer tents group

James Halstead (Holdings) has reached agreement with the Receiver of Conway Trailers for the purchase of stock, plant and machinery and motor vehicles, together with post-receivership current assets.

Conway is engaged in the manufacture, distribution and sale of Conway trailer tents and is trading profitably, but was unable to meet the liabilities of a cross guarantee of its parent company. The agreement includes acquisition of the "Conway" and "Everyman" trade names.

Separate agreement has also been reached with the Receiver of Ibis Kendal Holdings, the receiver of Conway for the purchase of 50 per cent of the share capital of Kingway Sari (France) and the whole of the share capital of Ibis Europe BV (Holland) and Conway Trailers USA Inc (Elkhart, Indiana). The total price is £501,000 cash.

## Interim drop at Caledonian Cinemas

In spite of the turnover of Inverness-based Caledonian Associated Cinemas edging forward by 5 per cent to £3.8m in the six months to September 29, pre-tax profits slumped by almost 44 per cent to £281,000. The board, which last December doubled the interim dividend to 2.85p gross, considers the results "satisfactory, having regard to the present economic conditions".

## Henlys may take over Belfast car dealer

Henlys is holding talks with R. E. Hamilton which are expected to lead to the acquisition of the Belfast-based Hamilton group.

Hamilton is a substantial main dealer for Ford vehicles in Northern Ireland.

Its pre-tax profit for 1978 was £112,000 and unaudited management figures for 1979 indicate a result of about £200,000. Henlys have started talks with Ford Motor for the continuance of the main dealer and truck specialist dealer franchises held by Hamilton should the acquisition take place.

## Borthwick buys chain of retail butchers

Thomas Borthwick & Sons and James Blue Ltd have reached agreement, subject to contract, for Borthwick's to purchase for cash the issued capital of the James Blue Group, comprising James Blue Ltd and Kelday Butchers Ltd. The James Blue Group operate 17 retail butchers shops, mainly in the North-West London area. The operation will be integrated with Matthews Butchers, a subsidiary of Borthwick's.

## Business appointments

## Mr A C Chipperfield is promoted at Redifon

Mr A. C. Chipperfield has been appointed managing director of Redifon Telecommunications. He has been deputy managing director since July 1979.

Mr P. A. Brooks is now company secretary of TSB Trust Co.

Mr J. M. Macharg has been elected chairman of the Associated Scottish Life Offices and Mr J. M. Souness has become deputy chairman.

Mr R. G. Ruffy has been appointed by Winchester Bowring as assistant director.

Mr R. W. A. Hermans has been made chairman and managing director of Philip Morris, succeeding Mr D. V. Lidjefohn as chairman.

Mr P. R. Fyson has been appointed a non-executive director of Commor Holdings.

Mr Michael J. Gadd becomes purchasing director-designate of

Reed Paper & Board (UK) to succeed Mr Haydn Tanner later this year.

Mr J. Sheppard Poor has been named vice-chairman of Morgan Guaranty Ltd.

Mr Michael Cady Byford has been appointed a director of Corn Exchange.

Mr M. A. Pizze, Mr E. L. Wax, Mr P. Barnes and Mr C. Board join the board of Geers Group.

Mr H. Houghton has been elected chairman of Stenhouse Holdings, a subsidiary of Mr J. C. Stenhouse, who remains on the board. Mr P. H. A. Stenhouse has been made a director.

Mr Rene Gold has been appointed to the board of Foster Turner and Benson.

Mr Gerald Bonall joins the executive committee of Eastern Engineering Group of Vickers as group director, special projects. He

also becomes managing director of Vickers Fluid Power Division in addition to his post as chief executive of the Mitchell Bearings Division.

Mr G. H. J. Robinson has been made chairman of Spring Grove Services to succeed Mr G. C. Rowett, who remains on the board.

Mr John A. Harper is to join the board of Staveley Industries as an executive director.

Mr F. C. Baker, managing director of Hobart Castings, has been elected chairman of the Council of Ironfoundry Associations. Mr Leslie Teeman, managing director of The Clay Cross Company and chairman of the East Midlands Region of the CBI, has been elected deputy chairman.

Mr Michael Burton has been appointed plant director of TI Nicholson Silencers.



Mr Michael Gadd of Reed Paper and Board.

## Options

Interest in traded options remained at a premium yesterday as investors prepared for the expiry of the January series on Wednesday. As a result the total number of contracts made was 1,754 compared with Friday's figure of 2,004—which in turn was the highest since May 3 last year. Interest remained in Consolidated Gold Fields, attracting 202 contracts but further interest was expressed in Land Securities, 744 contracts.

Today sees a new series of options for RTZ when the February, May and August £40p contracts are traded. Shares of RTZ rose 17p to 409p bolstered by the increase in the copper price.

coupled with decline in national economy and short-term prospects uncertain.

ARTHUR LEE & SONS

A reasonable start has been made in the current year, reports the chairman, Mr P. W. Lee, in his annual report. But Lee's order books were seriously disrupted because of the engineering strike.

SOUTH CROFTY

Saint Piran now holds 10.84m shares in South Crofty.

LOWLAND DRAPERY

Cable's (Holdings) has acquired a further 7,000 shares in Lowland Drapery Holdings and now holds 256,100 shares (12.53 per cent).

ROWAN MERLIN FUND

The final distribution on income units for the accounting period January 17, 1979 to January 15, 1980 will be 2.200p net per unit (1.600p last year). The total distribution for the year amounts to 3.400p net per unit compared with 2.600p last year. On the latest subscription day, January 16, 1980, the offered price of income units was 103.7p and the estimated gross yield calculated in accordance with the terms of the deed of trust was 4.07 per cent.

CATALIN

Wix International Corp has bought 34,000 shares in Catalin, increasing its holding to 650,550 shares (40.02 per cent).

GESTETNER HOLDINGS

Mr J. A. Barnett, director, has disposed of 20,200 "A" ordinary shares at 72p, leaving his holding at 217,553 shares (0.47 per cent).

AMAL POWER ENG

On December 7, Prudential Assurance notified the directors of Power Engineering that its interest was less than 5 per cent (previously 5.7 per cent). Scottish Amicable Life Assurance and its subsidiary has reduced its interest by 100,000 shares to 636,666 shares (4.64 per cent).

DEWEURST AND PARTNER

Turnover for year to September 30, 1979 £4,91m (£4,20m). Profit before tax £138,000 (£219,000). EPS 1.45p (2.31p). Dividend total 1.31p (1.37p) gross.

WILLIAMS LEA GROUP

Board reports that current year is likely to be challenging, with two major installations of plant. Running costs of these additions,

Meggitt slips from record level

Having reached a peak £478,000 in 1977-78, Meggitt's pre-tax profit slipped to £425,000 in the following 12 months to October 31, 1979. This was in spite of a rise of one-third in turnover to £8.26m.

Earnings per share have fallen from 5.6p to 4.7p, but the total dividend, gross, is being raised from 0.95p to 1.2p. At the half-way stage, the board reported that the reduction in the interim profit—from £181,000 to £152,000 pre-tax—was due to problems in the manufacturing division.

Meggitt covers machine tool merchandising as well as engineering and manufacture; the board proposes to introduce a profit-sharing scheme, subject to approval at the annual meeting.

HUME-DAWNAY DAY

The Secretary of State for Trade has notified that he has no objection to a change of control involving Hume Investment Trust becoming controllers of Target Life Assurance (and its subsidiary, Target Annuities), a subsidiary of Dawnay Day. Hume's offer for Dawnay Day has become unconditional in all respects. By Jan 18, acceptances had been received for shares representing 94 per cent of Dawnay's capital.

LOWLAND INVESTMENT

Gross Income of Lowland Investment, one of the investment trusts managed by Henderson Administration, for the three months ended December 31, 1979, was £154,359 (£118,022 for the corresponding period of 1978). Earnings per share, 1.19p, against 0.72p—a gain of 65 per cent. Net assets per share at December 31, 1979, were 75.2p (December 31, 1978—70.2p).

SECOND CITY PROPERTIES

Scotmid Amicable Life Assurance has sold its share in Second City Properties, reducing its interest to 2.4m shares (17.82 per cent).

WOLVERHAMPTON STEAM

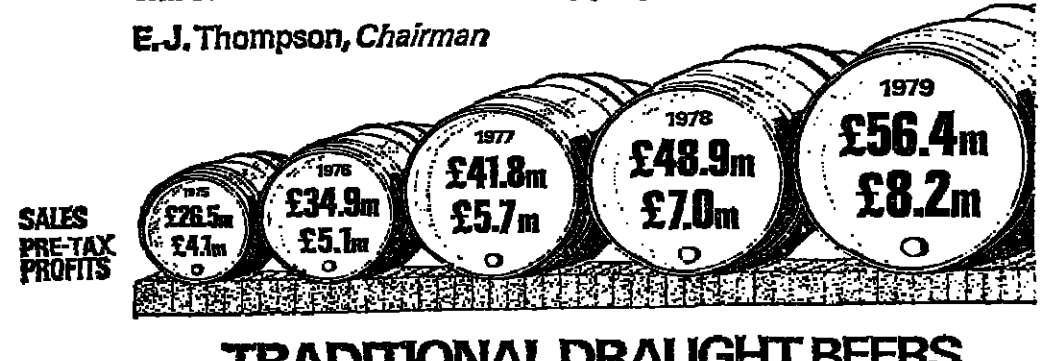
Turnover (excluding VAT) of Wolverhampton Steam Laundry

**BANKS'S HANSON'S**

# The Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries, Limited

## TURNOVER UP 15.3% PROFIT BEFORE TAX UP 16.7%

- \* 1979 was a most satisfactory year with increased profit and substantially reduced bank borrowing. We recommend a final ordinary dividend of 6.00p per share, making a total of 8.50p (1978—6.56p).
- \* We have continued our capital expenditure to improve production efficiency and expand our licensed estate.
- \* The quality of our products has been well maintained... Hanson's Mild Ale being voted the best mild in Great Britain.
- \* 1980 will be a testing year, but our ability to supply a good glass of beer at a competitive price leads me to expect that we will continue to make satisfactory progress.



**TRADITIONAL DRAUGHT BEERS**

## Brascan is seeking new outlets for cash surplus

Brascan, the Canadian holding company, said yesterday that it is examining the possibility of buying stakes in four companies, but that it is unlikely to spend more than C\$150m-C\$200m on increasing its stake in Noranda Mines.

At present Brascan has C\$800m to C\$900m in cash, the proceeds from the nationalisation last year of Brascan Power and Light Company. In 1979 Brascan made an abortive bid for F. W. Woolworth.

It then bought nearly 11 per cent of Noranda Mining, a Canadian base metal producer. Noranda took defensive action, issuing new shares to Zinor, a private holding company indirectly controlled by Noranda. Zinor now has 23 per cent of Noranda, including the holdings in Noranda of companies controlled by Noranda.

A request from Brascan that Zinor be dismantled has been rejected. Brascan says that one of the companies in which it is interested is a financial service company and the others are in retail and consumer products. An announcement may be made within a month.

## Monti rescue plan

The Monti Oil Group, one of Italy's independent private oil companies, plans to cede part of its commercial network to ENI, the state oil group, according to a Monti spokesman.

A deal is close to being finalised under which ENI will take over an ENI depot at the Monti group's Mach refinery at Volpiano, 2,100 petrol stations owned by Mach and a further 1,000 privately-owned outlets supplied by Mach.

The deal is part of a plan to rescue Monti from financial problems caused by heavy debts, estimated at about 450bn

lire. Monti is now negotiating supply deals with Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Nigeria.

Seidman into Europe

Seidman and Seidman, a United States-based accounting firm, is to open a new name, Binder Dijkster Ote and Co.

An international network of accounting firms that Seidman and Seidman helped form in

## International

1963 has operated under "a variety of names" in different parts of the world, said Mr B. Seidman, the firm's managing partner. He said that it was difficult at times to explain to clients the reasons for this "complex nomenclature".

Mr Lee, who has served as chairman of the international group for the past five years, said he is stepping down and will be succeeded by Herr Hans-Heinrich Otte, managing partner of the West German member firm.

Occidental's hope

Occidental Petroleum Corporation of Los Angeles says it has "every confidence" its ammonia transactions with Russia will continue, "a spite of President Carter's decision to set an import limit quota."

The company noted that the quota is subject to a new hearing by the United States Trade Commission, and it has every confidence that, after the hearing, it will again be clear the transaction continues very much in the national interest.

كزائن التاجيل



## FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

## Uranium profits soar at Mary Kathleen

Pretax profits at Mary Kathleen Uranium, the Australian producer indirectly controlled by Rio Tinto-Zinc, soared last year from A\$707,000 to A\$17.3m (13.53m).

Furthermore, accumulated tax losses meant that no tax was payable, though the company warns that it will become liable to taxation this year.

No dividends are being paid, but production was up from 608 tonnes of U308 in 1978 to 832 tonnes. Output in the fourth quarter was 233.7 tonnes.

Another Australian company, Western Mining, announced that it will not extend its bid for BH South because CTB nominees, holders of 15.3 per cent of BH South, have rejected the offer. Acceptances came to 58.3 per cent by January 18.

Some of BH South's assets will be sold to Conzinc Rio Tinto of Australia.

The great Australian diamond rush also received another fillip yesterday with the news that Pennzill Australia, a United States company, is expected to start prospecting seriously for stones at Rutherford, some 400 kilometres north of Melbourne.

The other big rush of the moment, gold, has encouraged the Philippines to raise gold production. Output is expected to rise from 17,430 kilograms last year to 20,152 this year. The extra gold will come from new mines, higher output from existing ones, and more production as a by-product from copper.

Platinum is another precious metal which has benefited from the boom. But Sir Albert Robinson, chairman of Rustenburg Platinum, warns in his annual review that the free market price has been driven to levels unjustified by normal market considerations. He says that sales in the first half of 1980 will be lower than in the same period last year because of falling demand for cars in the United States.

The South African gold and investment group, Gold Fields Property, part of Gold Fields of South Africa, made pretax profits in the six months to September 30, of R1,33m (£740,000) compared with R1.33m for the whole of the previous financial year.

Amalgamated Tin Mines of Nigeria is proposing to return £1.7m in surplus funds to shareholders by way of a capital payment of 9p a share and two interim dividends of 3p net each. The capital arises from the enforced sale of assets in Nigeria.

## Sotheby's capital spending rises to £5.1m

Capital spending of fine art auctioneers Sotheby Parke Bernet rose last year from £1.69 million to £5.1 million. The major part of the programme went on the Acolan Hall, opposite the group's London premises in Bond Street. Sotheby Beresford Adams and the new property at 1334 York Avenue at 72nd Street in New York.

In August the group bought a 30-year lease on the New York property and intends to buy the freehold for \$8,000,000 this year, under special finance agreements with the group's bankers.

Auction sales for the first four months of the current year are 31 per cent ahead at £94.34 million, with the most significant advance coming from the United States and Canada.

**AVON RUBBER**  
Lord Farham, chairman, told the annual meeting that order books in most group companies are healthy, although margins are under continuing pressure. Board believes improvement in year's profits is still possible.

## Wall Street

New York, Jan. 21.—Stock prices retreated a bit in late trading but still managed to hold most of a strong early advance. Advancing issues were ahead of decliners by 748 to 504.

The Dow Jones industrial average closed at 872.78, up 5.63. It had been more than eight points higher during the afternoon.

Volume rose to 48,040,000 shares from Friday's New York Stock Exchange total of 47,130,000. The oil and oil service stocks led a strong market advance as institutional investors continued strong buying.

Experts said institutions are taking a more favourable view of the stock market which is outperforming the bond market for total return, despite high interest rates.

## Silver restrictions

New York, Jan. 21.—SILVER futures trading on the commodity exchange began after nearly a four-hour delay. The market was quiet, with prices steady.

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## Commodities

**COPPER** was firm. Afternoon—Cash 134.00, Jan. 134.00, Feb. 134.00, Mar. 134.00, Apr. 134.00, May 134.00, Jun. 134.00, Jul. 134.00, Aug. 134.00, Sep. 134.00, Oct. 134.00, Nov. 134.00, Dec. 134.00.

**WORLD SUGAR** (cane) was steady. Afternoon—Cash 13.00, Jan. 13.00, Feb. 13.00, Mar. 13.00, Apr. 13.00, May 13.00, Jun. 13.00, Jul. 13.00, Aug. 13.00, Sep. 13.00, Oct. 13.00, Nov. 13.00, Dec. 13.00.

**COCOA**—March, 155.15, May, 155.15, July, 155.15, Sept., 155.15, Nov., 155.15, Dec., 155.15.

**CHICAGO SOYBEANS**—SOYBEAN—Mar., 31.00, May, 31.00, July, 31.00, Sept., 31.00, Nov., 31.00, Dec., 31.00.

**WHEAT**—Mar., 3.00, May, 3.00, July, 3.00, Sept., 3.00, Nov., 3.00, Dec., 3.00.

**BARLEY**—Mar., 3.00, May, 3.00, July, 3.00, Sept., 3.00, Nov., 3.00, Dec., 3.00.

**RYE**—Mar., 3.00, May, 3.00, July, 3.00, Sept., 3.00, Nov., 3.00, Dec., 3.00.

**MAIZE**—Mar., 3.00, May, 3.00, July, 3.00, Sept., 3.00, Nov., 3.00, Dec., 3.00.

**CLAY**—Mar., 3.00, May, 3.00, July, 3.00, Sept., 3.00, Nov., 3.00, Dec., 3.00.

**IRON**—Mar., 3.00, May, 3.00, July, 3.00, Sept., 3.00, Nov., 3.00, Dec., 3.00.

**STEEL**—Mar., 3.00, May, 3.00, July, 3.00, Sept., 3.00, Nov., 3.00, Dec., 3.00.

**ALUMINUM**—Mar., 3.00, May, 3.00, July, 3.00, Sept., 3.00, Nov., 3.00, Dec., 3.00.

**ZINC**—Mar., 3.00, May, 3.00, July, 3.00, Sept., 3.00, Nov., 3.00, Dec., 3.00.

**NICKEL**—Mar., 3.00, May, 3.00, July, 3.00, Sept., 3.00, Nov., 3.00, Dec., 3.00.

**COPPER**—Mar., 3.00, May, 3.00, July, 3.00, Sept., 3.00, Nov., 3.00, Dec., 3.00.

**LEAD**—Mar., 3.00, May, 3.00, July, 3.00, Sept., 3.00, Nov., 3.00, Dec., 3.00.

**TIN**—Mar., 3.00, May, 3.00, July, 3.00, Sept., 3.00, Nov., 3.00, Dec., 3.00.

**SILVER**—Mar., 3.00, May, 3.00, July, 3.00, Sept., 3.00, Nov., 3.00, Dec., 3.00.

**GOLD**—Mar., 3.00, May, 3.00, July, 3.00, Sept., 3.00, Nov., 3.00, Dec., 3.00.

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**IRIDIUM**—Mar., 3.00, May, 3.00, July, 3.00, Sept., 3.00, Nov., 3.00, Dec., 3.00.

**OSMIUM**—Mar., 3.00, May, 3.00, July, 3.00, Sept., 3.00, Nov., 3.00, Dec., 3.00.

**SELENIUM**—Mar., 3.00, May, 3.00, July, 3.00, Sept., 3.00, Nov., 3.00, Dec., 3.00.

**TUNGSTEN**—Mar., 3.00, May, 3.00, July, 3.00, Sept., 3.00, Nov., 3.00, Dec., 3.00.

**ANTIMONY**—Mar., 3.00, May, 3.00, July, 3.00, Sept., 3.00, Nov., 3.00, Dec., 3.00.

**COBALT**—Mar., 3.00, May, 3.00, July, 3.00, Sept., 3.00, Nov., 3.00, Dec., 3.00.

**GERMANIUM**—Mar., 3.00, May, 3.00, July, 3.00, Sept., 3.00, Nov., 3.00, Dec., 3.00.

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**FLUORINE**—Mar., 3.00, May, 3.00, July, 3.0



**BELL'S**  
SCOTCH WHISKY  
**BELL'S**

## Stock Exchange Prices

# Oils buoyant

ACCOUNT-DAYS: Dealings Began, Feb 11. Dealings End, Feb 22. Contango Day, Feb 23. Settlement Day, March 3  
§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

**BELL'S**  
SCOTCH WHISKY  
**BELL'S**

1979-80					1979-80					1979-80					1979-80					1979-80				
High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg
<b>BRITISH FUNDS</b>																								
100	99	British Fund	100	0	100	99	British Fund	100	0	100	99	British Fund	100	0	100	99	British Fund	100	0	100	99	British Fund	100	0
100	99	British Fund	100	0	100	99	British Fund	100	0	100	99	British Fund	100	0	100	99	British Fund	100	0	100	99	British Fund	100	0
<b>COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN</b>																								
100	99	Commonwealth	100	0	100	99	Commonwealth	100	0	100	99	Commonwealth	100	0	100	99	Commonwealth	100	0	100	99	Commonwealth	100	0
100	99	Commonwealth	100	0	100	99	Commonwealth	100	0	100	99	Commonwealth	100	0	100	99	Commonwealth	100	0	100	99	Commonwealth	100	0
<b>LOCAL AUTHORITIES</b>																								
100	99	Local Authority	100	0	100	99	Local Authority	100	0	100	99	Local Authority	100	0	100	99	Local Authority	100	0	100	99	Local Authority	100	0
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<b>FOREIGN STOCKS</b>																								
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100	99	Foreign Stock	100	0	100	99	Foreign Stock	100	0	100	99	Foreign Stock	100	0	100	99	Foreign Stock	100	0	100	99	Foreign Stock	100	0
<b>DOLLAR STOCKS</b>																								
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100	99	Dollar Stock	100	0	100	99	Dollar Stock	100	0	100	99	Dollar Stock	100	0	100	99	Dollar Stock	100	0	100	99	Dollar Stock	100	0
<b>BANKS AND DISCOUNTS</b>																								
100	99	Bank and Discount	100	0	100	99	Bank and Discount	100	0	100	99	Bank and Discount	100	0	100	99	Bank and Discount	100	0	100	99	Bank and Discount	100	0
100	99	Bank and Discount	100	0	100	99	Bank and Discount	100	0	100	99	Bank and Discount	100	0	100	99	Bank and Discount	100	0	100	99	Bank and Discount	100	0
<b>BREWERS AND DISTILLERIES</b>																								
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<b>INVESTMENT TRUSTS</b>																								
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<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>																								
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## PERSONAL CHOICE

## Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Davalle

## TELEVISION

## BBC 1

9.30 For Schools. Colleges: 9.35 Maths; 9.55 Maths-in-a-Box; 10.10 Look and Read (Boy from Space); 10.35 Resource Unit 11.15 History: 11.00 Watch (Robinson Crusoe); 11.17 television Club; 11.35 Design by Five (Claire Royner's bedroom); 12.05 General Studies (Student life). Closedown at 12.30.

12.45 News and weather.

1.00 Pebble Mill at One: Guests include Elizabeth Seal, the singer-dancer-actress who joins the cast of the West End musical Chicago any day now.

1.45 Trumpton: the story of Miss Lovelace and the Statue (r).

2.00 You and Me: For the very young.

2.14 For Schools. Colleges: 2.14 Trampunk: Deutschland: 2.30 English: Episode 2 of the BBC TV production of Julius Caesar. Close down at 3.00.

3.25 Debrau Starat: For Welsh viewers.

3.55 Play School: The story of the Princess and the Pea.

4.20 Yogi Bear: Cartoon. A Bear Living (r).

4.35 Jackanory: Kenneth Williams reads Norman Hunter's The Dribbles and Teapots (r).

4.40 Animal Magic: Johnny Mor-

## BBC 2

10.05 am Are You Happy in Your Work? For trade unionists (r).

11.00 Same as BBC 1, 3.55.

11.25 Write Away: How to fill in a job application form (r).

11.40 It's a Great Life: What city life can do the growing child (r). Closedown at 12.05.

2.30 pm Dilemmas: Professor Bernard Williams tackles the question: How sacred is life? Is there a good case for terminating it?

3.00 Illusions of Reality: How Hitler was "sold" to the world by the newspapers of the 1930s (r).

3.30 The Living City: Sociology series. Part 13—the multicultural society (r). Closedown at 3.55.

5.40 Harold Lloyd: First in a new

## ITV

10.15 Tuning In: Omnibus film about Karlheinz Stockhausen, one of the century's most controversial composers. The film draws on a series of his radio transmissions public lectures he gave in London and Oxford. We also hear the British group Singcircle and the piano duo, the Koutarsky Brothers.

11.07 Question Time: The Robin Day panel and audience discussion programme. His guests tonight are: Tessa Jowell, assistant director of the National Association for Mental Health; William McGee, editor of The Times; Bernard Wootton, and William Walcott, MP.

12.07 Weather.

12.15 News.

12.20 The Rockford Files: A reporter is murdered after sending some incriminating evidence to Rockford, the private investigator. But the package is lost in the mail.

8.10 Decisions: Third in the John Pinner series about people faced with crucial decisions about their future. Tonight: the three lonely old folk who have set up house together, to care for each other.

9.00 News: With Peter Woods.

9.25 Flesh and Blood: Part 3 of John Pinner's drama series about a family's life and its professional and domestic problems.

Tonight: Ross (Michael Hayston) secretary (Pamela Salem) breaks off their affair.

## Regions

10.15 News.

10.20 The Rockford Files: A reporter is murdered after sending some incriminating evidence to Rockford, the private investigator. But the package is lost in the mail.

8.10 Decisions: Third in the John Pinner series about people faced with crucial decisions about their future. Tonight: the three lonely old folk who have set up house together, to care for each other.

9.00 News: With Peter Woods.

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Tonight: Ross (Michael Hayston) secretary (Pamela Salem) breaks off their affair.

## World Service

BBC World Service can be received in most parts of the world on the following frequencies:

6.30 am World News.

6.45 am World News.

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**CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING STARTS HERE**

APPOINTMENTS VACANT 21.25  
BUSINESS TO BUSINESS 24  
DOMESTIC SITUATIONS 24  
EDUCATIONAL 24  
ENTERTAINMENT 10.11  
FLAT SHARING 25  
LEGAL APPOINTMENTS 23  
SALEROOM AND ANTIQUES 24  
SECRETARIAL AND NON-SECRETARIAL 24  
APPOINTMENTS 24  
MOTOR CARS 25  
PUBLIC NOTICES 24  
RENTALS 25  
SITUATIONS WANTED 25

For a full range of services to be advertised in the Times, please contact the Classified Advertising Department, 10, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF. Tel: 01-373 3311.

Private Advertisers Only

APPOINTMENTS 01-373 3311

PROPERTY ESTATE AGENTS 01-373 3311

PERSONAL TRADE 01-373 3311

MANCHESTER OFFICE 01-373 3311

Queries in connection with advertisements that have appeared, other than cancellations or alterations, to the Classified Advertising Department, 10, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF. Tel: 01-373 3311.

All advertisements are subject to the conditions of acceptance of Times Newspapers Limited, copies of which are available on request.

**PLEASE CHECK YOUR AD.**

We make every effort to avoid errors in advertisements. Each one is carefully checked and proof read. When thousands of advertisements are handled each day mistakes do occur and we ask therefore that you check your ad and, if you spot an error, report it to the Classified Advertising Department immediately by telephoning 01-373 3311 (Ext. 7189). We regret that we cannot be responsible for more than one day's incorrect insertion if you do not.

**THE DEADLINE FOR ALL COPIES IS 24 HOURS.**

Alterations to copy is 3.00 p.m. prior to the day of publication. For Monday's issue, the deadline is 12 noon Saturday. On all cancellations a Stop Number will be issued to the advertiser. On any subsequent queries regarding the cancellation, this Stop Number must be quoted.

"God our Saviour: who will have all men to be saved, and to come into the knowledge of the truth." 1 Timothy 2: 3-4.

**BIRTHS**

**AVARIS**—On January 20th, 1980, to Janet (nee Brooks) and John, a son (Joseph Robert).

**BAIRD**—On January 15th, to Rosemary and Andrew, a daughter (Liam).

**BRADY**—On January 17th, to Rosemary and John, a son (William).

**DOBBIE**—On January 19th, to Rosemary and John, a son (William).

**DUNNETT**—On January 19th, to Rosemary and John, a son (William).

**FORBES**—On January 19th, to Rosemary and John, a son (William).

**GAMBLE**—On January 19th, to Rosemary and John, a son (William).

**HEATHCOTE-ANDREY**—On January 19th, to Rosemary and John, a son (William).

**HUGHES-LEWIS**—On January 19th, to Rosemary and John, a son (William).

**WATSON**—On January 19th, to Rosemary and John, a son (William).

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**BIRTHS**

**KONIG DE CHAPPUIS**—At 10, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, on January 17th, 1980, to Rosemary and John, a son (William).

**DEATHS**

**GOODER**—On January 16, 1980, at home, aged 85, Mr. John Gooder, of 10, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF.

**DEATHS**

**ADAMS**—On January 17th, 1980, at home, aged 85, Mr. John Adams, of 10, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF.

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